

FoMRCH Treasurer

Sadly, due to pressure at work, we are losing our treasurer, David Graaff.

Please consider if you are able to volunteer your expertise

The duties of the treasurer are to track and account for all the money the charity receives and spends during the year. This includes receipting and paying in cheques, reconciling the bank statements, claiming Gift Aid and of course making the monthly payments to Zimbabwe. At the end of each year the accounts need to be prepared and audited and presented to the AGM the following April. There is a small administrative task in sending electronic returns to the Charity Commission.

Much of the record keeping is now electronic, including the banking, donation and Gift-Aid records. The most pressing immediate need is to secure adequate funding to maintain the level of support we currently provide. We need to look to increase regular donations significantly. It is a very exciting time!
David Graaff

New secretary

We are very pleased **Gail Richer** has joined the committee again and we warmly welcome her as our new secretary. She was our secretary for 2 years from 2005, welcome back Gail.

We also welcome **Leigh East** who has agreed to run our mailing lists as well as our website.

Thank you to all who have raised funds for the Children in Zimbabwe, the testimonies from the A level students show how much your support is needed and appreciated. Please continue your marvellous support and have a special 20th anniversary fundraising event.



Thanks to Kate Dobson's coffee morning which raised £154.00

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Take a look at our website
www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org
This newsletter is distributed by
The Friends of Matthew Rusike
Children's Home



Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home

We give mainly financial support directly to the Home

June 2016

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News from the

Home

We thank God for the journey you have travelled with MRCH over 20 years. Your intervention made a big change in the day to day running of the Home. We hope and pray that the Lord will continue guiding you and adding more members to your wonderful group.

Yes there has been drought but church members from different denominations do come and support us. We are really grateful for the assistance we are getting from you friends. Sometimes it's good to send money for specific purposes so we can use it accordingly. This is how the A level students received new text books, the houses got new bunk beds and we had the old dining room decorated. Both the dining room and kitchen look beautiful and we are now hoping to put in floor tiles which are neater than cement floors. This room is used for visitors from different organizations, for staff breakfast and lunch, for our prayers with children and staff and for evening homework studies.



Our hot houses have been doing very well because of the new irrigation system, with tomatoes, green, red and yellow peppers, spinach, carrots cauliflower, broccoli, beetroot all good for the children's diet. We also have green mealies. The piggery and poultry projects are also doing well. We have a fish pond in the garden with



many fish which will be ready for harvesting very soon. It will soon be fenced because its not safe to leave it open.

A house mother feeds the fish

I do pray that the 20th anniversary events are a success. We have our Big Sunday on June the 5th and circuits are already busy mobilizing people to raise funds for the Home.

Rev Margaret Mawire

Sponsored A level students

We are delighted that all four young people mentioned in our last newsletter are now being sponsored for 2 year A level courses held at MRCH college. Thanks to generous people who

came forward quickly, their studies could begin without delay.

£1000 pays for 2 years study, exam fees & stationery.

These young people come from very difficult backgrounds. All did well in their O level exams and wouldn't be able to study A level without financial support. In letters to their sponsor they mention being a Christian and going to church, sports and other hobbies and their ambitions for the future. Here are some extracts:

B is a 20 year old boy studying history, geography, Shona.

"I hope to study Communications at University level as I have a vision to be a journalist or TV presenter. I like to do research to learn new things. I read documentaries and novels in my spare time. We do group discussions when we share ideas with friends so we can all excel in future."

L is a 17 yr old girl doing economics, accounts, maths. "My ambition is to spend 4 years doing a BSc in finance and accounting at the University of Zimbabwe because I hope to become an accountant and I hope the Lord will take me there. I have joined the school choir, I like drama and I am a mighty warrior because I am good at women's soccer. I am hungry for knowledge and I work extremely hard because I know education is the most powerful tool to change the world."

M is an 18 yr old girl doing accounts, economics, geography. "My goal is

to study accounting at the University of Zimbabwe. My hobbies are writing music and watching documentaries. I am in the school choir and enjoy playing netball. My hope is to successfully finish my studies."

N is a 17yr old boy studying maths, accounts, economics. "My hobbies are soccer and athletics. I would like to change my background and I trust in you to help me do something better in my life, thank you."

The following 2 students were sponsored last year and have completed their first year of A level study. Their deputy head says:

"The boys are doing fine. Their performance is pleasing and I like the impressive attitude towards their work."

R. "I am glad to write this letter appreciating your kindness in my life. Your presence makes my education move forward smoothly. Without you I could not do my A levels. I want to assure you that no matter how hard the end of year papers are going to be I am going to fulfil your desires. My dream is to scoop 15 points by the end of the year. I will not disappoint you, you are my pillar of strength."

J – "I am glad to have someone who really takes me into consideration. I am so thankful I can't express the happiness for what you are doing for me. I promise to work harder and produce good results. May the Good Lord continue to bless you."

In our December newsletter we heard from Bright whose education has been supported through the MRCH Community Based Child Care Programme. He is now studying to become a teacher and here he is with the children he is teaching on his school practice.



From a staff member

I would like to thank you for the news contained in the Newsletter, it really encourages staff members to work hard. Some staff members whom I spoke to about the Friends said that they really work extra hard knowing that behind them is a member of the FoMRCH.

I would like to congratulate you on the 20th anniversary, twenty years supporting someone through grace is amazing really. Hopefully it will be a success.

Online donations

FoMRCH is registered with the Virgin Money Giving site. You can donate to the general fund which supports residential MRCH but we decided to have an ongoing project available too. We chose to support

the MRCH workshops given by the MRCH staff across 4 Districts of Zimbabwe. These teach the importance of childcare and child protection and raise awareness of the needs of vulnerable children in their communities. They have been happening for awhile now and have resulted in an increase in people wanting to foster children during the school holidays and requests to adopt children have risen significantly. Awareness has also been raised of the practical needs at residential MRCH and donations in kind have also risen. Obviously workshops cost extra money and ideally staff would like to be able to introduce workshops to the other 4 districts they are unable to cover due to lack of funds. **You can link to the Money Giving site on our website.**

This project is separate from the general fund which supports the residential children in Epworth on a regular monthly basis.

The monthly remittance of £5,000 is vital for the daily care of the 145 residential children in Epworth. It pays for their food, education, health and external medical treatment. Any surplus is used for whatever the management team considers a priority that month. It could be emergency treatment for a child, fuel for the minibus to go to foster homes, a utility bill or staff salaries. The regular remittance gives management the ability to plan ahead and be confident that money will come for such essentials.