

20th Anniversary Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has raised money for our 20th Anniversary appeal. So far several coffee mornings, an open garden, sale of cards, a tea party and a triathlon have raised **£3501.00** with more to come from various events including a diamond wedding anniversary celebration.

It is still not too late to have an event but please remember to send your cheque to **Shirley Richer** who is coordinating this effort, then we can let you know how much has been raised in our December newsletter.

**27 Mount Pleasant Drive,
Belper, DE56 2TQ.**

Treasurer

David continues as our treasurer so please continue sending your donations to him unless it is for our 20th Anniversary Appeal. We are hopeful we shall be able to tell you about his replacement in our next newsletter.

Christmas cards

Please note that as we have had no new designs for 2 years now we have reduced the price of packs of 10 cards and **we shall not be sending out any packs automatically.** Please look at the enclosed flyer and order early to avoid disappointment. Thank you to everyone who has bought/sold cards over the years it has been an excellent way to raise funds for MRCH
Carol Banham

Contacts

Chair: Carol Banham
64 Saffron Crescent
Tickhill, Doncaster
S Yorkshire
DN11 9RU
carol2021@banham.net

Secretary: Gail Richer
25 West Hill
Aspley Guise
Bedfordshire
MK17 8DP
gmricher@btinternet.com

Treasurer: David Graaff
The White Cottage
1 Grange Hill
London SE25 6SX
david@graaff.co.uk

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

September 2016

Registered charity 1120944

NEWS

FROM THE HOME

In May Its extremely cold now. Looks like its an early winter as we are already experiencing June/July cold weather. All the children are in good health except the flu and colds associated with winter which keep Litta (nurse) a lot busier in her clinic. We are busy preparing for the May Month Big Sunday which will be on the 5th of June 2016. Not only is this a huge opportunity to raise awareness of the Home, but it has proved to be a big fundraiser over the years.



Here are the children in their new winter uniform - thanks to the May remittance which got here just in time to purchase them. See the wonderful work that all the Friends are contributing to. Your support greatly enhances the lives of the children. It was not too cold on this day so they are not wearing jerseys. **In July** MRCH is like a farming community. It certainly provides a varied nutritious diet for the children and we are able to sell the excess.



The first 203 eggs from the laying hens went straight to the children

Joseph, who is in charge of the project tells me they had 105 eggs in two days and this is set to improve when all the chickens are laying.



We are just trying to survive in this harsh economy where every dollar counts. Life in Zimbabwe is becoming harder by the day hence we had fewer funds raised on the MRCH Big Day, compared to previous years. People do not have any spare cash now. If it wasnt for the FoMRCH monthly disbursement I dont know how we would manage honestly. The event was well attended though. *Zvirinane Matore*

Training Workshops for Volunteers



A childcare workshop was recently held at Mzinyathi Mission. This is part of our Community Based Care Programme. This circuit is assisting 40 vulnerable children in their community. Zvirinane Matore



Training staff – from right to left- Lloyd Kupeta Senior childcare officer, Rev Margaret Mawire, National Director, Norlin Chisoro, Transitions Officer and Munyaradzi Masaiti a social work intern working briefly at MRCH.

The June newsletter has more information about these workshops We decided to make them an ongoing project which you can donate to online at Virgin Money Giving. The link is on our website.

From the National Director

I have not had chance to sit and contact you as I have been extremely busy. After the Standhafts

left, it was time to transport the children to their holiday placements. We are reminded all the time about how the gifts from FoMRCH make our life bearable. We were able to transport all the children in our minibus to their respective foster placements. After that I attended a Methodist Church Zimbabwe youth conference in Sandringham travelling with 14 children and Rairo, our Deputy Childcare Officer.

Rev Margaret Mawire

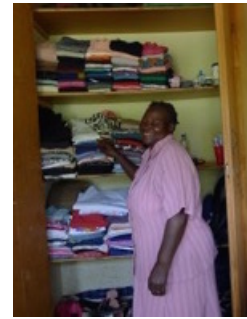
Recent additions to the “farming project” provided and installed by Australian Mark Edmonds. A solar pump and more water tanks, a new shed and 120 laying hens, and 1000s of seeds all go towards a much improved diet for the children who now have meat 6 days a week



and a good variety of vegetables like these cabbages. Vegetables now being grown are carrots, covo, silver beet, broccoli, cauliflowers, beetroot and cucumbers.

126 Pigs and around 400 chickens provide meat and meat is also donated each month by a local business. Mark Edmonds

A group of **new FoMRCH members** in Cornwall visited MRCH in May.



They sent several pictures including this one of a ‘mum’ showing clothes storage in their home.

“We were very impressed with everything we saw. We were made SO welcome. We greatly admired the work that everyone was doing and the general ethos of Matthew Rusike Children’s Home. I do hope that funding can continue in order to keep this much needed facility running for many a year to come.”

Jennie and David Thomas

John Bromley

It is with great sadness we announce the death of John Bromley, who was the inspiration behind the



Friends of Matthew Rusike Children’s Home and our first chairman for several years. John and his wife Mary taught several childcare training sessions in Zimbabwe on behalf of the National Children’s home (now Action for Children) and it was John who suggested starting a ‘Friends’ group to raise money for some ‘little extras’ for the children at Christmas.

John led us through that difficult time when we were credited with supplying 80% of the Home’s basic funding and the Home thrived. Thanks to the Zimbabwean optimism, the Home extended its work not only in Harare but also set up other centres to aid more children. Here we are 20 years later able to send substantial regular monthly remittances to care for the residential children at MRCH. John’s kindness, caring and Christian commitment was wonderful to share and we all benefited from his quiet, supportive strength. He could be counted on for good balanced advice when asked which was never pushy and always sound. His career in social services was spent in the welfare of children and the elderly and he had recently reached his 50th milestone as a local preacher. He is greatly missed by all who knew him.

I am so sorry to read of the passing on of John Bromley. It is indeed a great loss to the Matthew Rusike Children’s Home and of course to the FoMRCH. He and Mary were very influential in the developments of modern childcare practices at Matthew Rusike Children’s Home especially during the time they were here in the 1990s. His invaluable support was a blessing in the lives of all the people who knew him. May his soul rest in peace. Lloyd Kupeta

I remember him very well. This is certainly sad news. We thank the Lord for the time he was with us and all the selfless work he did particularly for the children at MRCH. Praying for strength and comfort for his family. Rev M Mawire