

# Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home

**We give support, mainly by cash, but also by advice and assistance to the Home for the benefit of the Children**

Latest news from the Home

Newsletter January 2005

## *MRCH Childcare Programme*

- The residential home at Epworth currently cares for 140 children: 60 boys and 80 girls, aged 3 to 18.
- **Exciting developments** are taking place with MRCH Community Based Orphan Care Schemes throughout the country. **No less than 6092 children are benefiting from MRCH support**, which includes provision of food, clothing, school uniforms, fees and support to foster parents.
- Development of a **clinic** "on-site" at Epworth. **A qualified nurse** has been hired to work in the clinic, which will be sited in the former Deputy's building.
- The estimated cost of setting this up is around £10,000. Money is required for medication, equipment and furniture.
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- *At the Executive Meeting it was agreed to send £5000 to go towards the set-up of the Clinic.*
- A number of **medical problems** requiring immediate attention have been identified including conditions of the skin, eyes and ears and other illnesses associated with HIV and **AIDS**. Typical costs are £50 per child for a medical check-up and a test for HIV and £320 for examinations/scan for epilepsy.
- **Dietary Improvements.** Attempts are being made to improve the diet of the children at the Home but food remains scarce and expensive. To transform the children's diet will cost at least £1500 per month. *Our donations continue to be vital.*
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- The Home continues to make progress in moving towards accommodating children in smaller **family groups**. Two such units are in operation with plans in hand for other units which will transform the lives of children at the Home.

## **Forthcoming visit of Astonishment Summer 2005**

Superintendent, Astonishment Mapurisa and his wife, Bridgitty will be visiting the UK this year for about 3 weeks from July 1st.

The **aims of the visit** will be to publicise the Home, increase understanding for our members and others as well as increased incentive to raise funds and to provide training for Aston by the NCH.

Aston will visit various NCH projects in different areas of the UK. Most probably he will visit Orpington, Surbiton, Bristol and York,. We would also like to provide the opportunity to visit some other places that he wasn't able to visit last time.

If anyone would like to **organise a meeting** in their local area, please let the Chairman know as soon as possible. They will need accommodation and transport to be arranged between venues.

Transport costs can be re-imbursed if requested. We shall consider all requests, but please be aware that we must fit into a **tight schedule** and organised itinerary.

An itinerary will be sent out once it has been decided, so that everyone can attend any of the meetings in their area.

### **Treasurer's Report** **Paddy Coles writes**

**Good news!** We have had another very successful year of fundraising, which has produced £45,000.

Although this is £9,500 less than the previous year, this had been anticipated as in 2003 Southampton District Network had made it their project for the year and raised around £16,000.

We have remitted £47,000 to Matthew Rusike, the balance being out of our reserves.

Inflation is ever present in Zimbabwe, but thankfully this affects the exchange rate at about the same rate that it affects the local costs, therefore, whilst everything they buy costs more, they also get more Zim\$ for every £ we send.

The current exchange rate is around  
Z\$10-12000 = £1

The need to continue supporting the Home is as great as ever and in an attempt to give some support to children in the community, in addition to those in the Home, they need every penny we can send them.

**Many thanks** for your generous support over the last year. Many have raised funds in their local community and churches.

Please continue to do so! Whilst the Tsunami has heightened our awareness of the needs of those caught in the disaster, the needs of the children in Zimbabwe is ever present. Astonishment and the Staff at MRCH send their **grateful thanks** for all you do for them."

### **Christmas Cards**

**Thank you** to everyone who bought and sold cards and those who gave generous donations too. We did even better this year with a profit of around £3000, which will go directly to the Home. Once again, we are very grateful to NCH for paying the cost of postage.

...Unfortunately, the Post Office seems to have caused some difficulties! 2 people did not receive packs of cards and 3 people's cheques did not reach me. We can't totally blame Christmas rush either, as the packs of cards were posted way before. Apologies to anyone who experienced these problems.

### **Immediate Needs**

Four of the new houses, funded by NCH are being used with one "Mother" and 10 children in each unit. The first two houses were basically furnished by the British Embassy in Harare. Other units still require basic furnishings, such as beds, chairs, storage units, curtains etc.

**Any fundraising ideas to help fund this will be greatly appreciated.**

## **Notices**

### **1. Annual General Meeting**

AGM is on 5th February 2005 at  
Birmingham International Student Homes,  
52 Oakwood Road, Selly Park,  
Birmingham.

**You are warmly invited to attend**

We meet at 1pm to share our lunch. The AGM starts at 2pm and usually ends before 4pm.

**Please let the Secretary know if you plan to attend and she will supply directions.**

- ❖ The Treasurer will be pleased to receive *annual membership contributions* for 2005; we suggest a £5 minimum, but all donations are welcome.

***We are always keen to hear if you have any news of the Home.***

***Please share your fundraising ideas with us.***

### **2. Another date for your diary!**

*Event:* Dinner Dance/Charity Auction

*Date:* Saturday, 28th May at 7pm, for 7.30 until around 1 am.

*Venue:* Merchant Taylor's Hall, YORK

Auction, dinner, dancing, envelopes to buy for £5 each with guaranteed prize ...should be a lot of fun!

Get in there early!.. it will be a popular event!

All proceeds to MRCH.    *Cost of tickets:* £35

#### ***Recipe for Sharing Kindness***

*by Faith    MRCH.*

Ingredients:

One large cup of friends

One jug of kindness

Two large spoonfuls of humour

Several sprinkles of caring and laughter

A handful of hearts

A dash of sensitivity

2 large cups of Strength

Method:

In a large bowl, combine friends, humour, hearts, kindness, sensitivity and strength. Blend well, making sure ingredients are thoroughly mixed. Put mixture in a large cake tin sprinkle on caring and laughter.

Take Slowly!

**Chair:** Carol Banham

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**Secretary:** Gail Richer

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**Treasurer:** Paddy Coles  
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This Newsletter is distributed by the Friends of the Matthew Rusike Children's Home.

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