

# 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 June 2005**

## *MRCH Childcare Programme*

Barry Barnes attended our last Executive meeting and conveyed how much Astonishment and his wife Bridgetty look forward to their July visit to the U.K.

The main messages from Barry's report are:

- MRCH is in good shape. The second set of houses is now occupied by children, the final pair of houses should be completed soon, that's six in all. The children have been very excited about moving into the new houses.
- The clinic is under development but has suffered delays due to cash shortage. It is hoped that it will be completed within 2 to 3 months.
- Big improvements have occurred in the environment of the home, including landscaping and extension of the vegetable gardens.
- The diet of the children remains limited in variety, there is virtually no meat but eggs are providing a protein source.
- The sewing project is prospering and has been successful in 'opening up' to include training for the women in the local community.

## ***The Wider role of MRCH in Gweru and Bulawayo***

- NCH and the World Church have provided training to assist the 'rollout' of the community support work of Matthew Rusike.
- NCH is funding two development posts for three years.
- There are over 6000 children in the community benefitting from the outreach project in the Bulawayo and Gweru areas.

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

You will have already received the Itinerary for Astonishment's July visit to the U.K. You'll see from this that the visit involves quite a lot of travelling around the country meeting groups of supporters of MRCH. We hope that lots of the Friends of MRCH will be able to take the opportunity to hear Astonishment speak about the children and the needs of the home. Do try to catch up with him in a location near you!

You will also have received one of the new flyers about the work of the Matthew Rusike Children's Home throughout Zimbabwe. If you require more copies of the flyer to distribute within your area or at a fund raising event, please contact Gail our sec or Carol our, chairperson, who will arrange to send you extra copies.

May I take this opportunity to thank our volunteers who are helping to fold all 5000 of our new leaflets— you're doing a good job!

### **More Good News!**

On Saturday 28th May over a hundred supporters of MRCH gathered in the beautiful 15th Century Merchant Taylor's Hall in York for a black tie dinner/dance, a great opportunity to get dressed up and raise money for the Home.

People travelled from far afield, even as far as Kent, to support the event which was a huge success.

Almost £5000 was raised in a variety of ways!

In between courses, there were items auctioned, these included

- a Tottenham shirt signed by England star Teddy Sheringham,
- Boxing gloves signed by over 20 former British boxing Champions including Henry Cooper.
- an England rugby shirt signed by England international stars

Jason Leonard, Tim Rodber and Micky Skinner.

There were also raffle prizes, all of which had been most generously donated to the event.

After dinner there was a disco in an

adjacent room and the music was kept at a reasonable volume especially for those of us who weren't as fit as others!

This was a truly excellent evening of fun and fundraising for MRCH—**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL INVOLVED**

# Thank you

Our thoughts are with all our friends in Zimbabwe as we hear news of the increasing difficulties the country has to face.

As well as all the other difficulties faced by the people of Zimbabwe, inflation continues to rise dramatically. For example,

October	2002	Z\$400 to £1
November	2002	Z\$800 to £1
January	2003	Z\$1500 to £1
November	2004	Z\$10,000 to £1
June	2005	Z\$15,000 to £1
<i>(official rate)</i>		
June	2005	Z\$50,000 to £1
<i>(unofficial rate)</i>		

Food continues to be in short supply

The completion of another family group house means that another group of 10 children can move into their new home together with their housemother. The children are all involved in the daily chores of the running of their home including cleaning, washing ironing and helping in the kitchen.

**The day I met my mother  
after 7 years apart**

*The day I meet with my mother it was a nice day to me. It was Saturday, we went to play soccer. When I go there the staff on duty tells me to go to the staff room. When I get inside the staff room I saw a lady sitting on the chair with two children.*

*Matron asked me if I know this lady, I told her I don't know her. She tells me she is my mother.*

*After a short while she tells me my whole life story, she tells me why she leave me. She had been arrested by the police and she went to jail. She tells me that my father died. She married with another man, with this man she got these children.*

*My sister is at home. On the holiday I will visit my relatives. I am happy.*

*By Innocent, age 14*

**Notices**

- Remember to view the new website for The Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home at
- [www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org](http://www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org)
- The website has all the up to date information about the Children's Home and the Friends. It is regularly updated so do check it out.
- Please let us know about any forthcoming events you may be involved with, we will be happy to publicise the event and include a report in the newsletter, the more the merrier from coffee mornings to dinner dances!
- We would also love to share ideas of fundraising, so let us know your ideas—the more the merrier!
- We would also love to hear from you if you would like to contribute something for the newsletter, maybe some of your experiences or photographs of the Children's Home or some news of any of the children.
- **Who's Who ?**  
Starting next issue we will be featuring key personnel involved with MRCH

**Watch this space!**

**A poem by Shyline**

*How I wish I had parents*

*Like any other child  
Cruel is nature ,  
Cruel to call my parents  
Leaving my young soul to suffer*

This Newsletter is distributed by the Friends of the Matthew Rusike Children's Home.

**Chair:** Carol Banham  
[carol@banham.net](mailto:carol@banham.net)

**Secretary:** Gail Richer  
[gail@richerg.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:gail@richerg.fsnet.co.uk)

**Treasurer:** Mr P Coles  
[padjen@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:padjen@ukonline.co.uk)

Newsletter compiled by Marilyn Robinson  
[mrobi1949@aol.com](mailto:mrobi1949@aol.com)      **Contributions welcome.**