

much as £700. We provided a choice of cards for £5, £10 or £20 card stating roughly what the money would buy (eg £5 for school shoes, £10 towards a month's medication for a child with HIV; £20 for equipment for refurbishing the crèche.)

If anyone would like to do this in their church or work place next year, I would be happy to help or forward the gift card templates we have developed from the Friend's website. The Gift Cards can also be used for one-off gifts for special occasions – for example, my Gran recently celebrated her 100th birthday and was given over £200 which she decided to donate to MRCH.”

Debbie Berrill

*Well-done Debbie's Gran –
Congratulations and thank you*

Quantas and the Crèche

Quantas cabin crew team who also support MRCH, recently managed to obtain funding from UNICEF towards the refurbishment of the crèche. This money, together with £10,000 from FoMRCH, means work on the crèche can begin – when building materials are available.

To learn more about the work QUANTAS do at MRCH and other countries visit their website <http://www.qcct.org.au>

Contacts

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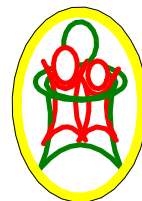
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Children's Home.

Please visit our website

www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org



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*

Newsletter January 2008



MRCH staff

News from the Home.....

On 30th September last year the Home had a grand opening of it's new buildings. There were many people there including a member of our executive committee. The children danced and sang for their guests in true African tradition. (See back page) The executive committee had agreed to send each member of staff a personalised thank you card with US\$20, in appreciation of their loyalty to MRCH and their dedication to the children. Here is the Superintendent's reply

.....you will be interested to know that your support was very much appreciated. We were so excited with the presence of Barry and Michael.

The Governor and Resident Minister of Harare Metropolitan Province was the Guest of Honour and Barry Barnes had the opportunity of addressing the gathering.

We did a video for the day which we will certainly share with you. Once again, thank you very much for your support to staff. They were very grateful, even now it is the talk of MRCH.

You may want to know that the support you gave was more than all individual monthly salaries at MRCH.

Please do not tire, we need your support. God bless you all at FoMRCH.

Astonishment Mapurisa

In October, Rev Sitole, the Presiding Bishop let us know the following news:

‘Conference approved the appointment of Astonishment Mapurisa as the National Director for MRCH. We are working towards providing separate accommodation and an office by the end of the year’. Our congratulations to Astonishment.

December 2007.....We are having heavy rains here and most of the people had prepared their lands. I am afraid the crops will be heavily affected with the rains owing to shortages of fertilisers.

January 2008 Our New Year has started on a very low note due to the shortages in the country and we are belting up ourselves to make sure children enjoy their stay at home. I really hope that the tidal wave of love and friendship we have had before will continue to be part of us as we sail yet another more challenging year together. For the children to wear broad smiles every week it is only possible through the support we regularly get from you. We pray for the continuity of this support. Thank you Friends.

Lloyd Kupeta
Deputy Superintendent

Charitable Status

After much work by our treasurer, FoMRCH became an official charity on September 1st 2007. This means that you can now gift aid your donations. If you wish to do this we have included a form for you to complete and send to our treasurer, Paddy Coles.

If you would like to make a regular donation by Bankers order here are the details to supply to your bank.

Bank: **HSBC**
Branch: **RINGWOOD**
Sort code: **40.38.21**
Account: **Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home**
Account No.: **01200305**

Regular donations mean that we are able to plan the support in the knowledge that the money will be there – Thank you

Treasurer's report

We have now come to the end of the 2007 financial year and I would like to thank you all very much for the generous support you have given. Including the sale of the Christmas cards, our income was nearly £42,000 and excluding the cost of printing the cards, our expenses were £134. At the beginning of 2007 I made one transfer via the normal banking system at a rate of approximately Z\$500 to £1. After that I was able to use an intermediary, transferring sterling into a company in this country then their associates in Zimbabwe paying it into the Matthew Rusike account in equivalent Z\$. At the end of the year the transfer converted at the rate of Z\$7,000,000 to £1. I've tried to transfer £2,000 every few weeks so they have a steady income. £39,000 has been transferred during the year.

MRCH is dependent on us for survival as we are the main source of income providing about

80% of all monies they receive. We have made a commitment of £10,000 towards refurbishing and expansion of the crèche. Local children and those at the Home will have use of this facility.

Paddy Coles, Treasurer

Newsletters

Thank you to all those people who have asked for the newsletter to be sent by email. If you are prepared to do the same please let us know. It does help to save printing & postage costs.

Christmas Cards

Once again many thanks to all who bought and sold Christmas cards for us. Thank you for prompt orders, payments and to everyone who gave an extra donation. (Remember if you wish to gift aid donations you must fill in a gift aid form and send it to Paddy). Leaving the cards unfolded made the packages flat enough to go as large letters, saving £100 postage! **Thank you to NCH** again for paying this. The number of people not paying or returning unwanted cards has fallen again. These people are removed from our card list but not from the newsletter list. Just let me know if you do not want cards and you won't receive them. Our **profit** from the cards this year amounts to almost **£4000. Thank you**
Carol Banham Chair

Run for Rusike

In a recent newsletter there was an article about someone who had run a marathon to raise money for the Friends...well, I can't match that but I did recently complete a 5km run and have raised over £300 so far. I wonder if there are other potential "runners" out there and whether it might be worth designing a T-shirt? I would have worn one to publicise who I was running for and would be happy to help organise that if you think it's worthwhile. If you are interested please contact *Debbie Berrell* terryanddeb@freeuk.com

Website

Have you looked at our website yet? We keep news of the home as up to date as possible. There are past newsletters, photographs you can print to help with publicity and lots of fundraising ideas. You can learn more about the Friends and the projects your support assists. We have added a gift card for sending to family and friends instead of a gift. This can be adapted to suit your fundraising situation as Cambridge Rd Methodist Church Birmingham has done to good effect.

“ For the past three years we have printed and sold gift cards to raise money for MRCH. This year we raised a total of £400; in previous years we have raised as