

### Are you a potential treasurer

Paddy Coles is retiring at the end of this year and we are looking for his replacement – could that be you?

Please contact Paddy for information as to what is involved.  
**01202 699 062**

### ....or Committee member?

We only have 4 meetings a year, come and join us and maybe offer to become a committee member in the future? **MRCH needs the Friends to continue their invaluable support.**

### Roy Marsh

Roy and his wife Sylvia have been supporters of FoMRCH from the beginning and have been sponsoring our meetings at Droitwich Methodist Church. Sadly Roy died in Worcester Royal Hospital on Feb 18th. The blessing was that he had very little pain and died peacefully with all the family round him.

### Fundraising

Several people have told us how easy it is to download photographs from our website using the instructions given and how useful they are for fundraising events.

[www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org](http://www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org)

The Home's website has recently been up dated. Check it out for their perspective on the work of the MRCH Organisation.

[www.matthewrusike.co.zw](http://www.matthewrusike.co.zw)

**Thank you** to everyone in the UK and Zimbabwe who have held fundraising events for the Children in Zimbabwe, their need is still so great. Please continue your marvellous support.

### Contacts

Chair: Carol Banham  
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Secretary: John Richer  
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**Our secretary is moving house this month. Watch this space for new details.**

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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 and advice to the Home*

June 2013

Registered charity 1120944

### News from the Home

The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe set aside the month of May each year for MRCH, when Zimbabwean Methodists in and out of the country celebrate the work initiated by Rev and Mrs Rusike, raise money and bring donations in kind. May 26 was a great day for the home. About 10 thousand US dollars was raised with more pledges to come. This involved the three Harare districts, Marondera and Kwenda. The groceries donated will last for almost a month.



### Other Home fundraising

Each year, in September the sponsored walk involves MRCH teenagers and staff, local people and church members, police and cadets, cheerleaders with St John's Ambulance accompanying them. Food is sold to everyone who arrives at MRCH.

In October the fundraising committee organises a dinner dance for local business people to raise money for MRCH.

The projects for the preschool are doing very well: sheep, goats, rabbits and chickens are multiplying and children are enjoying their meals because of the different types of meat. The Pre-school has been painted and a few things remain to get it completed.

It is good news that we now have a licence for our clinic. We also received a consignment of drugs from friends. However, more drugs are required to keep the clinic functioning. Our joy is that children can receive treatment here, avoiding travel to other clinics. We can now operate without fear.

The tailoring project which is for community empowerment is doing well, 15 ladies are under training and will be graduating at the end of August. Its sad that this will be our last group due to financial constraints.

**The Zimbabwe Revenue Authority** donated ten pigs.

What is required is the food for them. We hope the project will go a long way.

### **Resource Centres in the Communities.**

Donga is almost complete. What remains is the furniture, kitchen utensils and bedding. Since the people in Gweru District will be holding their fundraising on Sunday 2 June, we hope they will raise enough funds for these requirements. It should be in use very soon.

The four resource centres in Chitungwiza are still doing well even though they still require assistance to keep them going. We are looking forward to opening another centre in Mufakose. Those already functioning have seen many disadvantaged children reaching great heights in education.

[Rev Margaret Mawire](#)

**More information about the Community resource centres can be found on the MRCH website**

### **A Volunteer at MRCH**

I was very fortunate to stay at MRCH In November 2012. Through having experience of supporting young people in my typical working week I was excited about the opportunity to help and learn in Epworth, Zimbabwe. I write this impartially as I have no affiliation with any charities linked with MRCH.

I must firstly make clear how overwhelmed I was by the sheer effort of the staff and children to make the Home operate under continuing difficult circumstances and unreliable sources of power and water, to name but a few of the challenges faced every day. As much as I would like to convey how resolute, hard working, faithful and wonderful the people, young and old, of MRCH are, I am not sure I could ever do them justice.



I spent the majority of my time working with the Psycho-Social Skills (PSS) Group. Each day we worked on English (spoken and written), maths, geography and art development with some books from the library proving invaluable, particularly some large children's atlases which allowed small projects to be carried out. I found the lack of resources quite a challenge and had fortunately taken some pens/crayons and, perhaps more valuable, some Lego kits which are great for building fine motor skills and nurturing creativity in children. The children and I would love to see more interactive and

educational toys which are often, I believe, a necessary prerequisite before tackling the curriculum. When classroom time was over we would head to the nearby community garden, where several of the Epworth Primary children would also be in attendance, to plant and care for the crops. This proved to be both educational and a great social time for the young people of MRCH.



**The children dig and plant with adult supervision**



**Tomatoes and peppers are planted and watered, all helping towards an improved diet.**



My accommodation also doubled up as a good makeshift playroom where several of the children would drop by to use the toys, building blocks and books or just for a chat.



At weekends Lloyd would organise trips to the dentist in Harare for many of the children and I was fortunate to be able to go along for the ride. There is a growing awareness for the children needing time away from the Home to develop informal education skills and so we would take a trip through different parts of Harare on the way back to give them a sense of life in a big city. The few weeks I spent with MRCH has given me a real sense of the value of a charity that works and one that places the children at the centre of everything they do.

[Jamie Craig](#)