

Blankets

In May, just in time for winter, 40 blankets were donated to the home by Communauté Francophone Emmaüs of the Catholic Cathedral in Harare. Harare has had a cold winter this year, especially at night, so these came just at the right time.

"We were happy to meet the Management and children of Matthew Rusike – we won't mind at all being part of their family. We were there to represent the French Catholic Community based in Harare. The donations were mainly from a small group of people working for ACBF (African Capacity Building Foundation) and WHO (World Health Organisation).

We pray that we will be able to do more in the future.

God bless you and the entire Matthew Rusike Family"

Marie- Thérèse Bampassy-Kadurira

From our treasurer

We have received around £28,000 so far this year, and have remitted a similar sum to MRCH. Another remittance is due any day now, so in fact we are around £4,000 short of level pegging for the year.

We are fortunate to have heard that we are to receive two legacies from the estates of bereaved supporters. One we know to be £10,000 and the other is an unknown amount as we are a residuary beneficiary with four other charities. The timing of these is not yet known.

Many thanks to all who continue to make regular contributions and those who hold fundraising events.

Paddy Coles

Christmas cards

Sales have dropped in the last 2 years and maybe this will be our last year for new designs. Some previous designs will continue to be available. Please order yours early.

Next meeting

Our next meeting is 11am Saturday October 12th at Droitwich Methodist Church. You are welcome to come and then join us for the Bring and Share lunch afterwards. **Contact our secretary for details.**

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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 and advice to the Home

September 2013

Registered charity 1120944

News from the Home

A lot of developments are taking place. **Ruvimbo Edith Mangoma** joined the tailoring department in January and it remains an integral part of our operations. It provides all the sewing needs of the Home, especially children's school uniforms. As I write this email (June) Edith just finished sewing uniforms for all the children in the Early Learning Centre ready to start school next term. This saves us much money. Occasionally we receive orders from outside but our challenge is that children at the college are going to be taking Fashion and Fabrics as a subject. However, we have to close down the training for those local adults who have been receiving it free as part of the outreach programme. If we can get funding towards it, we will be able to continue.

The College is functioning well and is now officially registered with the Ministry of Education. We are still in the process of registering an examination centre. It takes a while because there are certain requirements we have to meet first. We still need a highly secure storeroom with a chubb lock for examination materials. The ZIMSEC team however was satisfied with our hall and furniture for writing examinations. Another exciting thing is that 2 of our teachers have been invited to train to mark national examinations. I'm sure that will

enhance their work for the children in our own college.

We did not manage to find books from the libraries, however UNICEF donated a good amount of textbooks for almost all the college subjects. The college toilets were inspected by the health officials and met all the standards. Our next project at the college is to fundraise for the construction and furnishing of the classroom block.

We received a donation of 2 water tanks with a capacity of 10,000 litres each from the MBCA Bank. Besides lessening water problems for the housing units, this is a huge boost to our market gardening, poultry and piggery projects. The projects are progressing well at the moment. The pigs are now breeding and Abiyoti, who is manning the project, tells me we will start selling in the near future. Our market garden is supplying a local fruit and veg company called Fresh Pro. We have indeed managed to penetrate into the market because FreshPro is one of the biggest buyers of fruit and veg in the country.

Sad news - today (June 27) we received bad news that one of the girls who left MRCH in 2011, has died. We're not sure what happened but we suspect she may have defaulted on her ARVs (antiretroviral drugs) It is sad, she was just 20.

Good news - Rairo (Senior Childcare Manager) had a major operation in July. It's amazing how she is recovering just fine. Today she is back at work on light duties. We see the hand of God and we are all excited she is back at work now.

More good news - One of our children in form 6 was selected for the post of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe Youth PRESIDENT. Though the interview was tough, he managed to scoop almost all the points. At the present moment we have two boys doing very well at Midlands State University. Two other boys are almost through, one at Chinhoyi University and the other at Harare Polytechnic. (see below)

We are grateful to FoMRCH for making our life easier. You may be interested to know that you are our only consistent partner. May you all be blessed abundantly for the wonderful work you are doing for the children of Zimbabwe.

Rev Margaret Mawire and Zvirinane Matore

We asked for some personal stories written by young people, here are the first two.

My name is Lucky M, youngest in a family of three. I am 19. I am currently doing Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Geography in form 6 at Moleli High School. I want to be a doctor. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Matthew Rusike Children's Home for being a home full of love and care exhibited by its staff. I moved into the Home in the year 2005 as a result of being homeless after my mother had failed to take care of the

family. We lived in extreme poverty and the environment was not conducive for our social well being. However, my story changed when I started in the caring arms of MRCH.

Currently, due to the exposure I gained because of the Home, I am honoured to be the incoming National Youth President of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe. I am also a member of the Junior Parliament of Zimbabwe as an Hon. Minister of Information, Media and Publicity. My school life is coloured by high stars of endeavours. In the year 2007 I attained 4 units at Grade 7 and in 2011 I attained 8 As, 3Bs at "O" level. I am a senior prefect at my school. My hobbies are interacting with people from various walks of life. Today, where I am, I count it all grace and only grace answereth for all the excellency in me. My vision is to impart and influence a mindset of greatness to the young in the world who are under threat of moral decadence.

My name is Tapiwa S born in Epworth in 1992, I came from a small impoverished family which was surviving under difficult conditions. I stayed with my single mom who passed away when I was 6. I never knew my father. When my mother died, my 7 siblings and myself had to look after ourselves. My 18 year old brother strived to take care of all of us. It was difficult. MRCH came to our rescue and gave us relief from the hardships that we were facing. Through their support, I managed to attend school, have food in my stomach, clothing and my ailing health was taken care of. I did very well in my primary education and MRCH continued to pay for my secondary education. I passed my GCE "O" level examinations and because my

results were outstanding MRCH enrolled me in boarding school for my Advanced level. Again I excelled. Today, I am studying an Honours degree in Marketing Management. This is all as a result of the support of MRCH. I thank them and all the supporters of MRCH for they have enabled hopeless situations to turn into testimonies. Today, I can look forward to a great future. I thank God for His grace and my life because I have been abundantly blessed.

We hope to have more of these inspirational personal stories in the future. Thank you to Lucky and Tapiwa for starting us off and Peter whose story has been saved for our December edition.

Now an inspirational story from a young person in the UK.

Anna Berrill is 11 years old and she has just raised £267.15 by doing a triathlon - swimming 250 metres, a 10km cycle/ ride then running 2.5 km. She says she hopes it will help the children have "a nice life" and after reading the two stories above I'm sure we can agree that all donations go a long way to helping that happen.

A wonderful effort Anna and thank you very much.

'A knit and natter'

On Saturday 13th April we held a sponsored 'Knit and Natter'. The World Service and Mission Committee at Cantley Methodist Church adopted Matthew Rusike Children' Home and Shelley Cooling as one of their fund raising projects for 2011 to 2014.

We were looking for a different fund raising event and Shelley told us the children love pull on woollen hats to keep them warm at night when the temperatures drop very low.



It was a huge success, lots of people came to support the knitters, enjoy tea, coffee, toasted teacakes and wonderful fellowship. Those who couldn't be with us knitted hats at home and the finished total was 142 hats and £533 raised in sponsorship and refreshments.

The hats have been passed to Shelley to send to the children and we can't wait to see photographs of the children wearing them.

**Cathryn Street
Cantley Methodist Church Doncaster**

Mission Fish

Do you sell items on Ebay? Did you know that during the pay process you have the option to donate to charity a % of the money you receive? FoMRCH has been registered, so if you tick "donate" a menu will appear and under "choose" put FoMRCH and decide on your % donation. Every little helps. Mission Fish is part of Paypal and your money will go straight into the FOMRCH bank account. Please try it and let us know how it works.

Don Banham