



Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home

Christmas Newsletter 2021

We give mainly financial support directly to the Home

News from the Home

October Greetings from Zimbabwe. We are all doing well. The children are in good health including those with chronic conditions. One case of one child who is diabetic remains concerning, her sugar levels remain very high despite injecting herself with insulin twice a day. Litta is keeping a close eye on her and health education is continuing with her and the caregiver. We have had one further case of Covid 19 but the child was isolated and the case was contained without further spread to anyone else. (The boy had been taken to the hospital for physiotherapy after breaking his arm, Litta tested him when he came back from the home and found to be positive) As of today we have no cases of Covid 19.

All the children are in school although they attend school every other day, as per the government position trying to decongest schools. The Grade Sevens are also preparing for their end of year exams which begin at the end of November.

Rumbi, (Social Worker) seems to have settled in well in her position.

We received a donation of a green house from Viva Network where we are currently growing tomatoes and peppers. (the 2 we had were destroyed in a storm) We also have maize currently growing in the garden. The poultry and the piggery projects are also progressing satisfactorily.

We have also started a piggery project at Donga. Two sows were delivered to Lloyd last month and we look forward to this project benefitting everyone involved at Donga. Zvirinane Matore



At the moment 2 A level students are being sponsored by a Zimbabwean family and UK sponsors. They are both doing well in spite of school closures due to Covid19.

[A previous A level student is now studying accounts at Zimbabwe University and MRCH is struggling to support him. FoMRCH has a 'pot' set aside for sponsorship for education studies can you add a donation to this 'pot' so we can help support MRCH pay for this young man's studies?](#)

[Academic fees £168 per semester](#)
[Accommodation £476 per semester](#)
[total £640 per semester](#)

Although the MRCH school is on the same site as the Home they are now run completely separately and at last the teacher's salaries are no longer paid by the Home.

Rumbidza Mashoko, the social worker, has been working on introducing the new government national care standards. This included bringing the children's files up to date and chasing up missing documents, such as birth certificates.

She has also been working with 29 children identified as having behavioural difficulties. These children have been put into groups to receive counselling at the home and in school. Expert trained counsellors from the churches are involved and have offered their service free of charge.

One girl was showing inappropriate behaviour and has moved to a centre to receive specialist external help and support.

There are two 18 year olds due for discharge into the community but as they are still in education they will stay at MRCH until they leave school.

The church helps to find employment for leavers and the Home stays in touch with them to give moral support, having made sure they are either with foster families or have somewhere to live and are in work.

The projects are doing quite well and they continue to aim for 30% of their budget coming from them over the next few years. The fish project has been

revived and staff sent for training, there is also free training with agronomists. The children's own garden area is doing well and they have their own rabbit project which they care for and will provide them with much needed protein in their diet.

The government has been working closely with the Home over their finances and child abuse cases. Government officials visited to do a thorough inspection including checking the children's files. The pleasing result was that nothing untoward was found and the Home is progressing well.

The church is committed to the Home and has set aside funds and encouraged volunteer counsellors from the churches for the children.

In normal times the children spend Christmas with their foster families but for a 2nd year running they will be staying at MRCH. Rev Linny made a special request for extra funding towards giving the children a special time this Christmas.

Outreach Centres at Mzinyathi and Donga

There are 35 children at Mzinyathi and MRCH has been able to support them with food and wheelchairs. Some farmland has been set aside for them to develop their own projects and they are trying to involve local churches in Bulawayo and Donga.

At Donga with Lloyd

Local fundraising was halted due to the pandemic and when schools reopened Lloyd was able to visit 5 of the 7 schools in his area.



He also visited families in desperate need. This young boy lives with his grandmother and needed clothes and school fees.

Donga is getting some support from Gweru and Harare church circuits but at the moment it is proving more difficult to get support from local churches.

21 children are receiving help with school fees,



81 children received stationery, 41 children received clothing



2 pigs and feed have been provided by MRCH for Lloyd's piggery. Burglar bars and electricity have still not been installed. MRCH pays for the fuel and maintenance of Lloyd's vehicle

A 3 bedroom cottage has been built for the caretaker

Lloyd's horticultural efforts came 4th in the *Pfumvudza* competition and the organisers used Donga to demonstrate the methods of producing food sustainably to the local people.



It was a good time to network with local people and to advertise the Matthew Rusike Community Programme.





Repairs were required when Donga's only water supply for the centre and 40 local families was dislodged by heavy rains during the rainy season. Each family must be limited to 2 buckets (20litres) of water each day to help conserve it's supply.

Rev Linny Mutendzwa

In November there was another virtual meeting between MRCH and the Friends committee. It means we can all ask direct questions and get immediate clarifications. We feel we are building a good relationship when we can speak face to face.

Everyone is finding fundraising difficult at the moment, here in the UK as well as in Zimbabwe. The children's needs have not gone away during this time. There is still time to send electronic Christmas cards and donate what would have been the cost of the card and the postage to the children. It has not cost the charity anything to register with www.dontsendmeacard.com/charities/a569 and all your donation comes to the charity. It really is very easy to use.

We are also registered with Pay Pal and Amazon Smile so why not do your last minute Christmas shopping through these two channels? Thank you everyone who has already used this system of donating when buying online, we hope to report the results of Christmas shopping online in our March newsletter, so far the amounts this year have been really worthwhile (see our June newsletter)

If you wish to become a Friend of MRCH the **2022 subscription** will be due in January at £10 per person.

Please let Immanuel know the details if you want your donation to go to any of the special appeals mentioned in this newsletter or if you are sending your subscription.

You can pay directly into the charity account which is now with the Cooperative Bank.

**Name: Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's
Home sort code: 08 92 99
account number: 65869309**

Or you can send a cheque to me or to our Treasurer, payable to FoMRCH, our postal addresses are below, and please state if it is a subscription and/or a donation to one of the appeals in this newsletter.

Donations come in all sizes and we're grateful for every one for the care of the children

We are still very much in need of someone to volunteer to be our treasurer. The charity cannot continue without one. Immanuel has been doing the job for a few years now and needs to step down. The whole system is set up for online banking and transfer of remittances to MRCH. Can you or someone you know take on this very special job for the sake of the children.

Once again we thank you on behalf of the children for all the support you have given throughout this 2nd difficult year for us all. Please remember it is even more difficult coping with a failing economy as well and we need your continued support to help them thrive through these hard times.

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