



# Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home

March 2023

*We give mainly financial support directly to the Home*

## News from the Home

Greetings from Zimbabwe to all the Friends of Matthew Rusike.

In December we reported that 60 of the children would be going to their foster homes for Christmas but in the end only about 24 were able to go for various reasons. This is the first time children have been able to go to foster families since 2019.



However, the annual Christmas party returned hosted by Eddie and friends. There was no electricity in the hall but that did not dampen our spirits, the children sang, there was eating (cake), dancing and drums beating. We surely ended the year in style.



We still had a big number at the Home and various activities were lined up for them.

Thank you for your support this year, the Friends remain constant and consistent in their support for the Home, we are grateful to you all.

Zvirinane Matore

We are grateful to God that some of our children managed to go away for the Christmas holiday to foster parents. They enjoyed a new lease of life. Those who stayed behind were treated to some Christmas parties. A group of boys from 12 years upwards went on a mentorship trip to lake Chivero. The 3 day trip covered lessons on positive masculinity, drug and substance abuse, digital disrespectful behaviour, among others and games.



One of our boys had driving lessons, passed and obtained a class 2 driver's licence. Our two grade seven kids did fairly well in their grade seven final examination. They are now enrolled at our college at Matthew Rusike.



The boy and girl who sat for A Level exams came up with 13 points and 10 points respectively. (the top score is 15) Out of seven who sat for O Level Exams, two came out with good results. The boy got 1A, 5B, 1C and the girl got 1A, 6B, 1C. It is encouraging that our children are generally motivated towards school work.

The two A level students are looking for university places and sponsorship. The O level boy has been enrolled at Kwenda Mission and **we are still looking for sponsorship for the girl who got a place in Lower six at Chemhanza Mission boarding school.**

Rev Linny Mutendzwa

### Donga Rural Outreach Centre

Donga received bales of assorted clothing from a family in South Africa and these were distributed to 133 children near Cachucha in partnership with Holy Trinity Church. Sanitary wear was provided to Vungwi Circuit.



Some children were visited in their homes to check their situation.



Maize, finger millet and sweet potatoes have been planted and we hope that the good rains continue.



No school fees were paid in 2022 for the vulnerable children supported by the Donga Centre.



Other challenges are that the vehicle hasn't been usable since October 2021, the Donga house roof is leaking, the pigsty needs repairing and there has been insufficient farming input.

We continue to thank whole-heartedly all those who have assisted and at the same time appeal for more assistance from individuals, organisations, corporates and the MCZ community.

Lloyd Kupeta

*However we have been able to provide some good news to both centres:*

Thanks to receiving in excess of £16,000 from gift aid donations from 2018-2020 we have been able to donate the total cost of installing solar energy to the rural outreach project at Donga (US\$3,972, around £3,500). This non-residential centre supports over 50 children and their vulnerable families but has no electricity and only hand pumps water for personal use and irrigation. Solar will give them light, refrigeration,

energy to pump the water, charge their phones and laptop and will transform their lives. We have also been able to donate the cost of installing solar power to houses 7&8 housing residential children at Epworth and staff houses under the same roof space (US\$14,047, around £12,250). **Thank you to everyone who has sent us a signed a gift aid form.**

Included in this month's remittance was also a generous donation of £200 specifically for the piggery project and £50 from a church in Ipswich. The donation from Ipswich Methodist Church came about as they recently welcomed a minister from Zimbabwe, Rev Saul Tadzaushe to minister at their church. At his welcome service, a collection was made and Rev Tadzaushe requested that the funds be donated directly to MRCH. The church has used our charity as a means of remitting the funds.

Niki Phillips, treasurer

We are humbled by such a generous gesture by Friends of Matthew Rusike team towards our solar project, including support for Donga, also the donation to the piggery project, special donation from Ipswich and the regular bi-monthly support. This is definitely going to alleviate our energy crisis, significantly reduce our electricity bills and greatly improve the lives of our children and staff. The lighting of Donga centre and solar powered borehole is great news. We thank God for your support beyond expectation. Kindly receive our sincere thanks and appreciation.

Rev Linny Mutendzwa

### **Fundraising events are gradually returning and we are very grateful for this**

In February I received a request for 20 of our brochures for an Open House to celebrate the birthday of Norman Cowell. Moira and Norman have supported MRCH for many years. Ed

"The Open House went very well and everyone had fun. We raised in excess of £300 which we will pay into the bank on Monday. I was very touched by peoples' generosity.

As it was his birthday we just asked for donations in lieu of gifts. I think people were incredibly generous but you could easily have a stall of cakes or books or plants or bric-a-brac, the list is endless!"

Moira Cowell

**Now you know how helpful the gift aid system can be have you signed a gift aid form yet? You must be a tax payer to be able to do this.**

**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**

We can accept donations via your mobile phone using Donr

**Text RUSIKE 3 to 70085** – this will donate £3 to FoMRCH and will cost you £3 plus the charge of a standard rate message.

**Text RUSIKE 10 to 70085** – this will donate £10 to FoMRCH and will cost you £10 plus the charge of a standard rate text.

### **If you shop online**

Amazon Smile is no longer available but

**Give As You Live** is, so go to our website [www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org.uk](http://www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org.uk)

and the **How You Can Help** page tells you how to set up an account

If you collect **Nectar points**, you can now donate them to FoMRCH via Crowdfunder

Crowdfunder can also be used to make a one-off donation, donate regularly or fundraise for FoMRCH.

You can send a cheque to our treasurer or chair payable to FoMRCH

Or set up a standing order – a reliable regular donation of £5 or £10 a month means we know that money is coming in. One day we hope to raise our regular monthly remittance to the Home back to it's original amount.

Thank you for all your support in the past and for staying with us over these many years.

### **Minutes Secretary**

We are still looking for a volunteer to be our minutes secretary. We are still meeting online so no travelling is involved at the moment so does this help you to consider joining us? If so please contact us;

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## **Contacts**

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