

## CHARITY NEWSLETTER-DECEMBER 2013.

It is a year since we last sent out our charity letter so we would like to update you on what we have done with the money/children's/babies goods/toys you have all so generously donated. Without your help none of this would be possible. We have in the past year raised in cash £1,585 mainly from Rhona's coffee mornings and selling her preserves including £930 from her recent coffee morning and cash donations. We have spent £1,446. We have been overwhelmed by the donations of used and new children's clothing and our team of knitters who have knitted over 300 baby jumpers and hats.

We would like to say that in South Africa where most of our charity work is carried out things were getting better or at least stabilised however without any reservation we can say it is certainly not - it just gets worse and worse with young children orphaned on a daily basis many found just wandering the streets. AIDS, and the related disease, is the main instigator.

It is not helped by the complete lack of Government support. You read on a daily basis of corruption and public money being wasted on new cars and home improvements where it would be better channelled into feeding and clothing the many deprived and starving children. Also from our perspective it is not made easy with the difficulties of getting goods into South Africa because of customs duties. We rely on the generosity of people taking in extra suitcases etc.

It is left to dedicated individuals to pick up the pieces and try and make the lives of these beautiful children, who did not ask to come into this world, a little better. Things that we take as granted for our children such as toys in most cases with these children do not exist.

Our three main charities are the Gozololo School for the Needy in Kwazi Manchu, Durban run by Miriam Cele who is 81 years of age. The Pinetown Crisis Centre, Pinetown, Durban run by Thora Mansfield who is 76 years of age both of which we have been supporting for several years and the 'Noah Centre' in the township of Shakaskraal through our good friend Avril Diamond.

The Gozololo School for the Needy is situated in one of the most dangerous townships in South Africa. It currently caters for 360 children under six, five days a week.

'Spar the Supermarket Group' fortunately provide the school with regular supplies of food which is out of date. The children are fed on arrival and before they depart as many would go hungry without it. Older children also come after school to do their homework and again are fed. Food is also sent out to the community in particular to the 'Grannies' who through Miriam take in the many orphaned children

Jenny Pearson who works for British Airways Community Relations was telling an elderly lady in Scotland about this school. We were amazed when we were informed that this lady had been left some money and she has donated £53,000 for the school for us to use as we think fit. I would love to name this lady but she wishes to remain anonymous and we of course will respect her wishes.

This coincided with the American Consulate giving the school a bakery but they did not have a building to locate it. Not only would it help feed the children but would also generate much needed revenue. The school is also cooking on a single domestic cooker and the toilets are totally inadequate for the number of children. Through a local recommended building company in Durban, with us project managing it, the building for the bakery has been completed, the kitchen has been extended with a commercial range put in with two large sink units and the toilets have been replaced and extended. We have also donated children's clothing and pay for 5 children to go through school. Our thanks go to Kate Ling, Maria Georgiadas and the HR Team for Europe and Africa from British Airways who have taken out a considerable amount of clothing on our behalf to the school on their two visits. They spent a day with the children which was really appreciated and enjoyed by the children and staff.

The Pinetown Crisis Centre is involved with the numerous townships in the 'Valley of a Thousand Hills' on the outskirts of Durban. It is hard to perceive some of the social issues that they have to deal with including rape and other serious sexual assaults on babies/children (boys and girls)/women of all ages. They have counsellors dealing with many issues including victims of all crimes and relatives of victims of murder which is extremely prevalent in that area. They also carry out HIV tests and the resulting trauma from the many who are tested positive.

We donated the centre 150 knitted jumpers and some children's clothing plus some toys which were going up into one of the township centres.

The other 150 jumpers, together with children's underwear and some toys we donated to the 'Noah Centre' which is a centre where children and young adults can go and take part in different activities and again are fed.

Other donations that have been made in the past year are baby clothing to the Sanyu Babies Home in Entebbe, Uganda. 7 boxes of children's clothing to the Philippines Disaster Appeal, children's plates/cups/goodie bags for the British Airways Mad Hatter tea party at London Gatwick for the terminally ill children and their siblings from the Chestnut Tree House in Sussex and boxes of clothing to a children's hospital in Kingston, Jamaica.

**WITHOUT YOUR HELP AND GENEROISTY NONE OF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE  
AND WE CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH.**

We would like to make mention of the following people, Jenny Pearson and Mary Barry from British Airways Community Relations, Lucy Groenewoud. Sue Taylor from Leicester, Karen and Graham Hill from Worthing, Sussex, British Airways IFCE and Support Staff at London Gatwick, British Airways Asset Protection Group, Chrissie Regale-Day, Kate Ling and Maria Georgiadas from the HR Team at British Airways, Ryno Slabbert and Danny Swarts from British Airways at Johannesburg, Linda James and Swissport in both Johannesburg and Durban, the parents of the St Julian's Nursery School, Sussex Victims Support, Don Miles, Helen Taylor, our jumper knitters, Mrs Munroe from Scotland, the Chichester Diocese Sussex Mothers Union, Doris, Anna, Kathleen and Marlene who with Rene and Cathy help on

the coffee mornings and to everyone else who through various means have donated to us.  
THANK YOU.

AS WE ALWAYS SAY IF IT MAKES JUST ONE CHILD SMILE IT IS ALL  
WORTHWHILE.



**The children of Gozololo**



**The Building work being carried out at Gozololo**



**We were honoured to be sang to at 'the Noah Centre'**

Rhona and Terry Burton