

## Gozgelo for Needy Children Charity.

### Newsletter November 2015

To keep you all updated on what has been happening to the money that has been raised through the sale of Rhona's jam, marmalade and preserves, financial donations, and the toys, children's clothing, sports clothing, brand new baby jumpers from our team of knitters and children's books. Without your support and generosity none of what we do would be possible and we cannot thank you all enough. To see the look of happiness and the smiles of children, who have nothing, makes it all so worthwhile.

With regard firstly to South Africa, where because of lack of government funding, many organisations are seriously struggling financially. There is an ongoing increase in the numbers of orphaned and sick children through HIV and related diseases.

Getting charitable goods into South Africa is still proving difficult because of customs charges, but we continue through our baggage and that of friends to get as much in as possible.

One of the organisations we have been associated with as mentioned in previous newsletter is, The Durban Children's Homes. We were recently contacted and asked if we could assist them in anyway financially, as their numbers had increased but their finances had not.

We have agreed to sponsor a little three year old boy, who earlier this year was admitted to the home as he was undernourished, physically and mentally undeveloped through neglect. He is HIV positive, and when admitted he could not communicate in anyway.



He was removed from the parents who were both suffering from serious substance abuse. On our recent visit we spent time with him and I am pleased to say that he is now communicating through eye contact, physically through touch and starting to make noises, but still unable to speak. Although nearly 4 years his development age is that of 18months.

In February this year we gave The Durban Children's Homes £1000 to sponsor him for his medical costs, clothing, food and education. We are committed also to donate a further £1000 next year. Because of data protection we cannot name him but the photo's show how adorable he is.

Three days after this photo was taken, he was admitted to hospital with pneumonia. Sadly due to his poor health care prior to his admission to the home, his immune system is very low.



He was discharged three days later when he was the star turn, with his dancing at the Friendship Day and 110 year celebrations.

On our recent visit we were introduced to the “Ithemba Labashia Creche” (Hope for our children), run by Debbie Joubert and Alna Roothan. They are a non-profit organisation and currently look after 45 toddlers from the local township, Shakas Head, who arrive between 7a.m and 8.30a.m and stay to 5p.m. Monday to Friday. They are given breakfast when they



arrive and a meal later in the day. In the afternoon they are joined by around 100 older children who again are fed. Without this facility many of the children would go hungry.

We gave the the centre some money to buy a new children’s slide and repair their current one. We also bought them an urgent needed ‘camping cot’ for the children to sleep in. We were moved by the centre’s motto, “***Transforming hardship into Hope***”.

The disaster in Nepal was catastrophic and we were able to assist with a number of boxes of children’s clothing and nappies that many of you donated.

We also sent out 40 boxes of children’s clothing to a Christian Aid organisation in Entebbe, Uganda, who were desperate to help really impoverished children.

### ***Back to South Africa.***

On our recent visit we were also introduced to a local government school in Salt Rock, Kwazi Natal, called the, “Sizani Combined Primary”. The headmistress of the school is Mrs. Ntombenhlie July, a really remarkable women. Although a primary school the youngest pupil is 5 years and the oldest is 20 years!. Other than the classrooms there was a small unkept field used as a football pitch.

We have decided to raise money to build a Jungle Gym similar to what we have previously put into other schools for the nursery class, who currently have **69** children in it. The small amount of government funding they receive has been cut. Each child’s parents have to pay the equivalent of £7.50 per year for the little ones and £12.50 for the older ones. Many parents struggle to find the money.

The older boys were playing football with a delapidated football. We gave them 10 footballs (in **Sunderland colours!!**)



Finally we were able to give £400 towards Christmas presents for the “Noah Centre’s” older children (mentioned in our last newsletter) through All Saints Church in Salt Rock.

**Without your support and generosity none of this would be possible and we cannot thank you enough.**

We would like to give special thanks to the following:

Our “project managers” in Salt Rock, Avril and Brandon Diamond, who without their help and dedication and assistance a lot of this would not be possible.

Our friends Karen and Graham Hill for their continued financial support and for donations of children’s underwear for South Africa from the Mothers Union.

Sue Taylor from Leicester, Maggie Warman, the knitting team from Haywards Heath, Faye Russell and the Sussex County Cricket Club, British Airways London Gatwick IFCE Crew Managers, Cabin Crew and Support Staff, British Airways Corporate Security, Christine Regale-Day, Anna Levy, our greengrocers, Heather and Andy who provide our ingredients at either cost price or no cost at all, Danny Swarts and Ryno Slabbert from British Airways and Swissport in Johannesburg for their continued support in getting goods from Johannesburg to Durban. WFS and the British Airways Cargo Manager Andy Bentley for providing transport and organising the boxes for dispatch to Entebbe. Joe Dobbie and Sue Tamplin from British Airways. Dave Fickweiler our auditor. Rhona’s many helpers at her coffee mornings.

***Rhona's Coffee Morning Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015 between 10a.m and 12.30p.m.***



**Don't forget our motto "If it makes one child smile then it is all worth it".**

Rhona and Terry Burton.