Natalya's Fund News

June 2020

Extracts from Website

More can be found at www.natalyasfund.org.uk.

Tools for Self-Reliance

to Bless Young People in Malawi

Target Met

All the carpentry tools for Malawi, including shipping, have now been paid for.

Many thanks to our generous supporters, who have enabled us to pay for all the carpentry tools in the consignment for Malawi, including shipping, thereby completing the work started in memory of Bob Cook. This latest appeal raised £1,726.45, just exceeding our target of £1,714.

The total raised, i.e. that in memory of Bob, plus the Count Your Blessings appeal, was £3,120. It will pay for the following:

- two large training-centre kits @ £86 each = £172
- six kits for larger groups (approx. 8 people) @ £41 each = £246
- 50 kits for 'standard' groups (3-6 people) @ £27 each = £1,350
- 18 solo kits @ £14 each = £252
- shipping for all the above = £1,100

Refurbished tools and shipping are provided by UK charity 'Tools for Self-Reliance'. The shipment will unfortunately be delayed because the UK lockdown was preventing the refurbishment of tools. Most of the staff of the charity have been on furlough, although some may soon be returning to the office partially. Of their volunteers, many are older with medical conditions and may be isolating for an extended period. However, they are very keen to resume work so, to enable that to happen, the charity is looking at putting in place a click-and-collect system for volunteers to come and collect refurbishment projects! In Malawi the projects are currently on hold and, because (as in many countries) official data doesn't match with anecdotal reports there, it is challenging for partners on the ground to make a decision about re-opening projects. At the moment, they are erring on the side of caution, with continuous review.

Graduate carpenters opening kit

Image © Tools for Self-Reliance. It shows their current work in Malawi. The money we are raising will expand this work, and photos showing the kits we provide will be included in a future newsletter.

Coaching in Life Skills through Sport

Providing sports essentials and Bibles to help a "fatherless generation"

Helderberg Academy, South Africa, March 2020

Among the problems South Africa faces is what is said to be the biggest gulf between rich and poor of any nation on earth, and a very high proportion of fatherless families. Both these problems are addressed by Helderberg Academy, a South African charity founded by Beth Veenendaal, past member of a church to which one of our trustees belongs.

The Academy works in the town of Somerset West, near Cape Town, in the Helderberg ('clear mountain') area of South Africa. Here you will find children who know who is their father but don't know them as a father. They can point to them in the street, but don't live with them and have little or nothing to do with them. Fatherlessness is associated with behavioural problems, homelessness, missed education and attempted suicide.

The Academy addresses these issues in the underprivileged community by teaching life skills through sport, and encouraging and supporting children as they grow up, helping them reach their true potential. Children often do not get sufficient physical exercise at school, and they miss out on the emotional and social development that comes from being an active member of a team.

The aim is for children and teenagers to develop physically and mentally, and to grow in self-esteem and in relating to others, especially to those from different races or cultures. It also gives them opportunities to play and have a break from home responsibilities.

That is achieved through weekly sports coaching in football, netball, rugby, dance, etc. These promote fitness, health, and values such as respect, responsibility, courage and empathy. Also by giving youngsters experience in leadership or coaching, they develop leadership skills and learn to be role models in their communities. Occasional holiday clubs are also run, giving the opportunity for more time together.

What we Provided

We sent a grant of £802, made up as follows:

- £230 for one year's supply of balls for monthly prizes given to the most-improved boy and girl in each community
- £173 for one year's supply of Bibles for monthly prizes as above
- £105 for two sets of eight slalom poles for weekly sessions and holiday clubs
- £105 for netball, rugby and football balls for weekly coaching
- £189 for 12 sets of socks and boots for children that regularly attend

Update: Coronavirus - How it Affects this Project

April 2020

On 26 March South Africa went into nationwide lockdown, which has been quite a challenge to deal with as the core of the Academy is the children they work with, and now they are not able to see them.

Covid-19 has prevented their planned holiday club and their usual home visits. In an effort to stay connected with the children, the week before lockdown they managed to meet with each community and hand over some activities for the children to do at home. They have subsequently started a WhatsApp group where they share a daily activity and encouragement with the parents in the hope that they will share these with their children; this they will continue for the duration of the lockdown. They have also endeavoured to contact the parents by phone as a substitute for the home visits.

Just before the lockdown, they were able to buy some of the items specified above, but of course they cannot for the time being use them. We are expecting to receive pictures once they have resumed coaching.

In the meantime we have told the Academy to feel free to divert remaining grant money to buy essential items they may need in their response to the pandemic.

Street Children's Future Protected

Coronavirus Update

FISCH, Iringa, Tanzania, April-May 2020

All schools are closed; youngsters in school and university have all returned home and will continue their courses once government restrictions have been lifted. The Tanzanian government has announced that universities will re-open at the beginning of June, and schools are expected to re-open in June or July.

The students that began their vocational training have had their courses put on hold. Courses for four of the youngsters had been paid for before the vocational centres had shut. The centres, as with the schools, are expected to re-open in June or July. When they do, these young people will begin their courses, and FISCH will be able to pay for and start the remaining six courses too.

The sewing business has started (small businesses are still operating as normal). It had chosen a location by the university in order to attract students; however, shortly after they started, the universities were shut, so it has been hit hard. FISCH hopes that business will pick up once they are open again.

FISCH is continuing to provide food, shelter and support for vulnerable children, as their families are affected by the economic hardship that has resulted from the slowdown due to the virus. FISCH has adapted in many ways to the virus, including enhancing facilities for hand-washing and sanitising, and purchasing additional, basic medical supplies. We suggested that in the circumstances they may redirect any of our funding to their Coronavirus response if needed.

FISCH Church continues and has been booming.

The FISCH United teams were not able to play other teams, although they could still train. Football boots were purchased, although instead of the full 32 pairs, the team decided to use some of the money on other equipment such as footballs and shin pads. They are now kitted out to a suitable level for playing in the league when it opens, hopefully this month. This will be the first year that FISCH Utd has been eligible for playing in the official league, thanks in part to the provision of items by Natalya's Fund. Sports activities such as football leagues should soon be able to restart.

DONATIONS

100% of the money you give goes to the project you're supporting!

Nothing is taken out for our administration, transaction fees, etc.

All of Natalya's Fund's expenses are paid out of our General Fund of miscellaneous income, such as interest and money contributed by trustees. That is how we ensure that 100% of each donation received goes to the specified cause: We take nothing out for administration, pay or marketing; and the General Fund pays all transaction fees incurred in online donations.

Current Donations

Having reached our fundraising objectives for our three main projects, current donations will be held in our 'Where Needed Most' Fund. This money will either be used to extend those projects or to fund a new project.

Giving Online

Online donations to Natalya's Fund, one-off or direct debit, are handled by CAF (Charities Aid Foundation), which is itself a UK registered charity. Gift Aid can be applied.

Giving by Post

Please send your cheque, made payable to "Natalya's Fund", to our address at the foot of the page. Let us know if you would like us to claim Gift Aid, and we will send you a Declaration form to return to us. If you have previously given us a Gift-Aid Declaration, but no longer want us to claim Gift Aid, you will need to let us know.

We can also send you a standing order form if you wish.

Natalya's Fund is a UK charity supporting underprivileged children and young people overseas. It provides tangible items and supports building projects as requested by those in the field. Since starting in 1992 the charity has raised over £40,000 for its beneficiaries abroad.

It also has a 'home mission' to encourage giving and so bless its supporters. It aims to promote giving by funding complete projects that make a tangible difference, then providing photographic evidence of the improvements.

The current trustees are Andrew Leighton (chairman and treasurer), Chris Leighton (secretary), Heather Thornton and Janeann Hammond.

Keep in touch ...

We send out a brief email occasionally, telling our supporters of significant updates of our website, which contains much more information than we can include here. If you are now able to receive emails and view our website, then **please let us know if you would like to transfer to our emailing list**. You can do so by signing up on our website (see the panel below).

On the other hand, if you have picked up this newsletter and wish to go on the postal mailing list, or if you are on our postal list and no longer wish to hear from us (we won't be offended), please contact us using the details below.

Contact Us

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