Natalya's Fund News

May 2021

Extracts from Website

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

Journey to Self-Sufficiency

FISCH, Tanzania, April 2021

Thank you for your part in helping street children make the transition from vulnerability to self-sufficiency.

Going to School - a Christmas Present!

One hundred and ninety-three Tanzanian street children in both primary and secondary levels have been able to go to school since January when, because of your help, we met our Advent appeal target of £3,828. The money was paid to FISCH in January for the necessary uniform and stationery.

In the middle of lockdown, when most UK school children were at home, we appreciated more fully the immense value of education. Our children were missing school, in more than one sense.

However, the coronavirus was not taking hold in Tanzania in the same way, and education had resumed in the summer after only a brief lockdown in the spring. From that time it continued as normal.

Our Advent appeal raised £2,751 directly, which we supplemented from our Where Needed Most Fund to meet our target. With the money FISCH had raised, the total was enough to provide everything needed for all the children.

For every one of them it all added up to a wonderful Christmas present.

FISCH = Future for Iringa Street Children

The Sewing Class - a Material Benefit!

The three sewing machines you helped us fund in 2017 have been working hard in the hands of the sewing class, which last year made over 200 uniforms. The class is run by Eva, who was once a street child herself, but through FISCH has become self-sufficient. Seven new members have been recruited, and the first thing Eva got them to make was their own uniforms—pictured below.

One of their next projects is to make face-masks for both the FISCH children and the adult helpers.

The heroic sewing group of 2020

Eva (Minnie Mouse) with sewing group new members, 2021

Vocational Training for 10 Street Children

The 10 street children whose vocational training you helped us fund last year have all been working at their various courses, and indeed some have finished. Among them are trainee mechanics, a trainee electrician, and drivers. The drivers have qualified, which allows them to offer a public transport service using minibuses, motorbikes and Bajajis - a Tanzanian-made tuk-tuk (a minibus derived from a motorbike).

New Trustee

We're delighted to welcome our new trustee, Rohan Lewis. She has only just joined us, so details will appear in the next issue.

Raise Money for Natalya's Fund while you Shop Online

You can now support Natalya's Fund on Easy Fundraising. When you sign up as a supporter, 4,300 shops and sites ***will donate for free*** when you shop online. That includes eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat – along with energy, insurance, DIY sites and many more! To ensure you don't miss the opportunity to help us in this way, you can arrange for Easy Fundraising to show participating sites on your search results.

Continued Contact Despite Lockdown

Helderberg Academy, South Africa, April 2021

Sports were out of the question during the lockdown, although more recently Rozanne has been able to visit the children, divert funds to tackle Covid, find new sports-grounds, renew contact with existing grounds, and continue planning for the post-pandemic situation.

Rozanne began meeting with the children at their homes, and found them in good spirits. They were delighted with gift bags she had prepared, which included a face-mask, sanitiser and some goodies. She has found a great new sports-ground, and is resuming with an existing contact; with all the grounds she has to devise a way of working within the Covid regulations.

For the moment, sports are allowed again, within the regulations. So they are at last able to use the equipment they purchased from the grant you helped us provide last year (pictures expected soon). The money they hadn't spent by the time of the first lockdown was diverted to buying the gift-bags. They will let us know as and when they need a top-up.

Disappointingly a third wave of the pandemic is expected in South Africa, so in the meantime Rozanne is putting further planned changes on hold.

Carpentry Tools: the Long Haul to Self-Reliance

Tools for Self Reliance, Malawi

Thanks to your support we are providing carpentry tools to help young people get training and set up in business in teams or on their own. The goods are currently in transit.

Shipping Updates from Tools for Self Reliance (TSR)

19 January 2021

TSR's shipping container with our tools had been loaded onto the MSC *Sindy* at London Gateway. It is in transit and due to arrive in Mozambique at the end of January. From there it will be transported by land to Malawi.

3 February 2021

The container was unloaded at the port of Nacala in Mozambique. After clearance it began its onward journey by road to Blantyre in Malawi, where it is expected to arrive in the next two weeks.

19 March 2021

The shipment containing the Natalya's Fund carpentry tools has arrived in Blantyre where it has been cleared by FESODEV, one of TSR's partners in Malawi. The kits have now been collected by the other project partners, and the next stage will be the kits being used in the training projects which are in the process of getting started.

Kits of tools in warehouse in Blantyre
Photo © Tools for Self Reliance

30 April 2021

The Malawi projects are all just starting, so the partners are not yet due to share reports and updates. As the projects progress, we will have more updates, including images of tools in use and of graduates receiving their own toolkits at the end of their training.

Sadly we also hear that the UK government's aid cuts are adversely affecting TSR and its work.

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.

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