Natalya's Fund News

May 2022

Why are we posting three copies to everyone on our mailing list?

See page 2.

Soap 'Selling Like Hot Cake'!

Starting a sustainable business in soap manufacture to provide much-needed employment and training in Malawi

Mr Yamikani (AKA Mike) Chunga, Director of our partner the Lilongwe Youth Organisation (LYO), reported on 25 November last that the soap factory is up and running in Kauma, Lilongwe. He wrote, "Many thanks for the support and pass this appreciation to everyone who made this dream come alive. The project has taken shape, all the materials procured, trainings conducted, soap making has started and the name of the soap is KAYSO meaning Kauma Youth Soap. The soap has been launched and the community has welcomed and received the brand with whole heart. The soap is selling like hot cake."

Take the SOAPTEMBER Challenge!

Proceeds from the Soaptember Challenge enabled us on 27 October to send £1,820 to LYO. Thank you for taking part.

The mixture of caustic soda and palm oil is poured into moulding trays, where saponification takes place, i.e. the conversion of the mixture into soap, which takes several hours

The soap solidifies during saponification

A local MP came to the launch ceremony and addressed the young people

An initial batch of Kayso soap ready to be sold

School Attendance Made Easier

An effective, sustainable and affordable answer to monthly periods for Malawian schoolgirls

September 2021

Sanitary kits have been distributed to 160 girls at Kaputu School, Malawi. The kits are locally-made, reusable, and last about two years. From a questionnaire at that school, 80% of the girls reported that they would miss 3-4 days of school during their period. Now they have their kits it is expected that the number of school days they miss will be dramatically reduced. We hope to report the actual attendance figures in due course.

Kits being demonstrated at Kaputu

Three Classrooms to Rise from the Ashes?

April 2022

Bughungu School is located in a village which borders Rwenzori Mountain National Park in Uganda. Between the years 1997 and 2002 the school and its community suffered under an insurgency of the rebel Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). During that time the school was burnt to ashes. Added to that it's in a hard-to-reach area, without facilities such as electricity, mobile phone coverage, a proper road network, healthcare and safe drinking water. The school has no accommodation for teachers and not enough seats for the children. It has six classrooms with a roll of 780 pupils (401 boys and 379 girls).

The school would like to build three more classrooms, which would reduce their average class size from 130 to 87. Rohan, one of our trustees, visited the area a few weeks ago, and spent time with Teddy, a local deputy head. Teddy subsequently prepared a budget and applied to us for a grant, which we are now considering. The total budget is around £20,000, of which they can raise £1,600 locally for some of the materials and labour. We have yet to decide, if we go ahead, which of the remaining items to fund.

We hope to update you in the next newsletter.

Why are we Posting Three Copies to Everyone on our Mailing List?

This year we are aiming to increase our support base by over 60%. That way, more people will have the opportunity to give, and we will be able to support more and bigger projects that we are learning about. So we have sent two extra copies for you to give to two of your friends or relations if you can - and spread the good news!

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

Exciting Plans for This Year

February 2022

Top: December beach trip

Middle: Leadership Award winners on a tour of National Sea Rescue Institute

Bottom: sailing trip across the bay

Rozanne, the director of Helderberg Academy, our partner in South Africa, has had a busy year and, despite Covid, has seen great attendance at each of their groups. In fact, three days were required for December's beach trip to accommodate all the children. The kids were attracted by the termly prize-giving that was introduced, which also notably changed some of them as they strived for the awards. On 12 February the leadership award winners got to go on an outing – a sailing trip across the bay, learning about the National Sea Rescue Institute and its vessels, and enjoying lunch and an ice-cream, all sponsored by the yacht clubs.

Rozanne has introduced the celebration of the children's birthdays, which excites them enormously. Unfortunately, though, the usual holiday clubs have not been held since the first Covid lockdown.

However, there are exciting plans for this year and beyond. Firstly they want to continue with the successful activities they have started. These include the termly prizes and the leadership awards and outing, birthday celebrations, and Christmas gifts. Secondly they would like to start some new initiatives in leadership, holiday clubs, and training for the coaches, who are older children.

Having identified some very promising girls and boys who are emerging as leaders, they would like to start a special programme, which would entail short courses to nurture their leadership characteristics.

They would like to resume holiday clubs this year, if Covid rules permit, enhancing them by inviting guests to educate and inspire in areas such as animal rights, recycling and human trafficking – these should help open their minds to the world beyond their own communities.

As many of the children have daily suffered all kinds of abuse and neglect, Rozanne would like her coaches to do short courses to better equip them for dealing with the resulting emotional and mental health issues.

In addition there are some items of equipment needed: some of the sports equipment and kit (boots and balls) needs replacing, preferably with better quality, longer-lasting items; it would be really encouraging to provide a uniform for the coaches that they could keep; and a replacement car will be needed soon.

Rozanne has asked for prayer for the deeper needs of the organisation – for children's hearts to be changed from hard to hopeful, that they would positively influence their homes and environments, and most of all that they would find Jesus. The coaches can be instrumental in that transformation. They all need to use their time wisely, and Rozanne, a single mother, especially requests prayer for endurance so that she can continue wholeheartedly to pursue the amazing calling God has blessed her with.

Could You Help as a Trustee or Champion?

We would like to recruit at least one more trustee to join us. We would also like to recruit more champions to represent us at their church or community group. Can you help?

Trustees run the charity. They have a 40-minute video prayer meeting once a month, and about half a dozen business meetings a year; two of the business meetings are in person (currently in Newport, Abergavenny or Hereford) and the others are by video.

Champions are free to promote the Fund in whatever way they see fit (subject to the trustees' approval). They are given help and resources to that end, and are encouraged to join the monthly prayer meetings.

If you are interested in either of these roles please contact us using the contact details below.

To Donate

Please send a cheque payable to 'Natalya's Fund' to our address below. Let us know if you would like a Gift Aid Declaration.

Or visit our website, where you can pay by card, PayPal or Direct Debit.

If you buy anything online, whether a physical item or a holiday, you may be able to raise money for Natalya's Fund simply by accessing your retailer's website via Easy Fundraising. Simply go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk, select us as your cause, and then see if your retailer is one of the many that participate.

Prayer

We pray together by video link for 40 minutes at 8 p.m. on the first Monday of the month. Please get in touch if you would like to join us.

When you give to a project,

100% of the money you give goes to that project!

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

Keep in touch ...

If you have picked up or been given this newsletter and wish to go on the postal mailing list, or if you are on our postal list and no longer require our newsletters, please contact us using the details below.

Alternatively you can sign up on our website to the email version.

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