Natalya's Fund News

December 2022

The advent of the first new classroom

Reducing average class size from 130 to 87 at Bughungu primary school, Uganda

November 2022

Work is progressing rapidly on the first of three classrooms to be built at Bughungu.

Through the generosity of our supporters, our 'Room to Learn' appeal raised £5,073 (of which £1,000 was given in matched funding). That is enough to provide one extra classroom, which it is hoped will be ready before the start of their school year in February.

Building work at Bughungu started immediately the money was received. Ms Teddy Ithungu, project manager, reported on 1 November that the work had commenced, and on 3 November we received the first set of photos. Since then work has been progressing rapidly and we have received nine further sets. Here is a selection of her photos.

This work, however, is only the first phase of the project—to reduce average class size from 130 to 87 will requires three classrooms to be built. It is planned to include an office in the building as well. The foundations of the second classroom are being laid as part of the first phase.

Although the room will be useful in itself, we do not wish to leave the project partially completed, so will now work on raising the remaining money to complete the task.

A fast and generous response for Gateway girls

To mark Environmenstrual Week (17-21 October) we appealed for funds to buy sustainable sanitary kits for a new intake of schoolgirls at Kaputu Primary School, Malawi. We were seeking just £300, all that would be required to supply 100 such kits, giving 100 girls the freedom to attend school without embarrassment during their periods. The kits would not need replacing for two years, as they would be washable.

One of our trustees heard about Environmenstrual Week only days beforehand, so quick decision-making, planning and action were required, which is why we did not have time to put out a postal mailshot but instead relied on the email version. However, there was a fast and generous response, resulting in a fund of £424.10, plus some Gift Aid due, all in the space of the week.

Provision of the kits to schoolgirls in that country is the object of a programme called 'Gateway' – Girls' Access To Education – which is run by UK charity Starfish Malawi. We are discussing with them whether the extra money can be used to expand the programme a little to, say, a neighbouring school.

Environmenstrual Week is run every year by WEN (Women's Environmental Network). As well as encouraging environmentally-friendly sanitary products, they also champion reusable nappies and many other causes.

From the archives

10 years ago

21 April 2012

A mechanical hoist enables this severely-disabled Belarusian youngster to be moved into bed, bath, etc., with safety and dignity. Some hoists are built into the ceiling and so can only be used along a certain track; however this hoist is on castors and thus can be used anywhere on a suitable floor. We gave a grant of £840 to UK charity The Belarusian Orphanage Project to enable it to provide this item.

20 years ago

18 July 2002

We donated £100 to YWAM (Youth with a Mission) to enable youth worker Victoria Lansley to buy craft equipment for a summer camp in Lithuania for some of the local youngsters.

From hard to hopeful

Changing the hearts of fatherless children from hard to hopeful is an aim of Helderberg Academy, South Africa. The Academy achieves that using the medium of sport in a Christian setting, and by fostering leadership among those youngsters who are showing that potential.

In parallel with our 'Room to Learn' appeal (see p1), we raised sufficient funds to pay for some items of equipment the Academy needs. In particular, some of their sports equipment and kit (boots and balls) needs to be replaced with better quality, longer-lasting items. The Academy had prepared a budget totalling 17,100 Rand for that purpose, currently equivalent to £838, which sum we are sending to them.

Meanwhile we continue to fundraise for them so that each youngster showing leadership potential can be given a coaches' uniform that he or she will be able to keep. The coaches can be instrumental in transformation: Academy children whose hearts have been changed from hard to hopeful can positively influence their homes and environments. More importantly, the saving knowledge of Jesus can be spread.

We have already started raising funds for the 82 items of uniform, ranging from peak caps to all-weather jackets, at a total cost of 23,144 Rand, equivalent to £1,134.

Success spreading from Lilongwe

25 November 2022

A party from the Lilongwe Youth 'SOMAYEEP' soap-manufacturing project travelled 180 miles North to Mzimba, Malawi, to train a group of women in soap manufacture for self-sufficiency. The leader of the women's group, Thokozani Chepuka, writes, "Thank you for your support by putting me in touch with Yamie [aka Mike] from Lilongwe Youth Organisation. The initiative was a success and we heavily utilized the resources of Yamie and his trainees." Thokozani works with the international charity 'Corps Africa Malawi'.

Mike, director of Lilongwe Youth, writes: "One of the greatest achievement now is that the group is now doing consultancy by providing trainings to many groups that would like to produce soap in Malawi."

Corps Africa, in the words of their website, "… is a non-profit organisation that recruits and places ambitious young Africans in remote, high-poverty communities in their own countries to facilitate small-scale, high-impact projects that are identified by local people, fulfil key needs, and whose impact and success can be carefully measured, all through a transformative volunteer experience."

Lilongwe Youth Organisation is requesting a grant for advanced soap-producing equipment to be used for stirring and mixing soap as well as cutting. Currently they are producing soap by hand, but they want to expand as they have found markets in neighbouring Mozambique and Zambia. The advanced machines will be used to produce not only soap but also shampoo, toilet cleaning soap and car washing soap. The cost of this equipment is £1,950. However the group has managed to save £450 pounds so only require £1,500 pounds to complete the purchase. We are looking into this proposal.

Children's concert for Natalya's Fund

We are very grateful to Abergavenny Symphony Orchestra who have chosen Natalya's Fund as their charity for this year's children's concert. The concert is free although there will be a retiring collection. It will be on Sunday 11 December at King Henry VIII School Abergavenny, NP7 6EP. With refreshments from 3.30, the concert will start at 4pm. This year the theme is 'Animals' with music from The Jungle Book, Jurassic Park and much more. Children are invited to bring a teddy bear or to dress up as an animal. If you are in the area, do come along for what promises to be a fun afternoon.

Alternative gifts for Christmas

Searching for Christmas presents that really make a difference and that will be deeply appreciated? These gift cards come with an envelope and will be dispatched by Royal Mail 1st class next working day. Please see the enclosed order form. Order as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!

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.

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.

Contact Us

Natalya's Fund, Redwick House, Green Street, Redwick, NEWPORT. NP26 3DY

Telephone: 01633 889028

Text: 07746 122790

Website: www.natalyasfund.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/natalyasfund/

Registered charity no. 1042890