

Swaziland Charitable Trust Reg. Charity No. 257666 England

Newsletter No. 4 March

UK board visit to Swaziland

November 2007

Vicky McDonough and Walter Riddell spent a week visiting projects all over the country.



Walter learning Sibhaca at Lamawandla High School

demonstrated his skill at Sibhaca dancing wearing his new shirt made by the students.

In the Hhohho region of the country, we visited Timpisini preschool. The SCT has roofed two of their buildings. Footballs brought along by Walter were very popular. During our week in Swaziland, we visited Elwandle School where forty students are sponsored. The head teacher wrote the following about the work of the SCT:



Mrs Mamba outside the school chicken unit

the SCT. The money raised from the sale of chickens helps buy food for the children and supplements the funds available to help sick students who are on medication."

"The student support scheme (SSS) has been of great assistance to my school. Living in the community my school serves, I know the plight some of my students are in. It is very hard for me not to accept a child who wants to be in school, but the reality is that we cannot run a school without funds, we need parents to pay the fees. Although the government has assisted with the introduction of the OVC (orphans and vulnerable children) fund, this does not cover all the children who want to be at school, nor does it cover the fees in full. The SSS came as a great relief to me. Now the orphans also have uniforms and stationery. The number of students unable to pay fees is increasing so we have decided to expand our poultry project, paid for by



Vicky with Nqobile at Elwandle Primary School

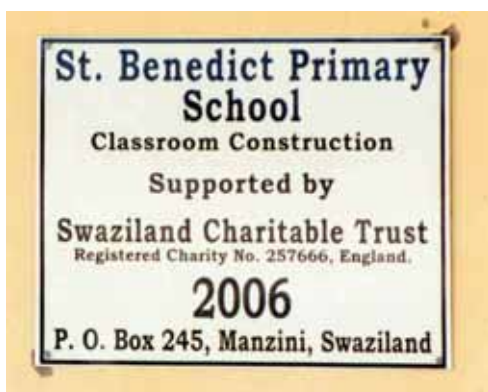
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St. Johns Bosco Primary School children singing their thanks.

At St. John's Bosco Primary School, we saw the garden tools and fencing paid for by the SCT. The maize was beginning to grow and the children sang their thanks.

Our thanks to all the sponsors of orphans on our scheme, we now have nearly three hundred children on the scheme and during our visit we met most of them. Nineteen of our students have now gone to secondary school, three from Manzana School with first class awards in their Junior Certificates.



Sample of the plaques which are put on all new buildings



New classroom block at Hhohho Primary

Fund Raising



Current school kitchen facilities

Wrighton Community update

The money raised in 2007 will pay for an orphan to complete his primary education, two students to complete a year each at high school and for a kitchen to be built at St. Andrew's Primary School in Malkerns where their orphan studies. The staff were having to provide food for the children in very difficult conditions. The new kitchen will make a huge difference, all thanks to the Wrighton community in Somerset.

Bacon's College second Christmas Appeal



Students sponsored by Bacon's College

Robert Loder and Rob Mackenzie attended the launch of the second Bacon's College Christmas Appeal in aid of the SCT. We cannot thank the staff and pupils enough for their efforts. They raised another £10,000, collected by Vicky and Hugo McDonough at a very moving assembly at the end of term. Staff and students now sponsor fifty three orphans in Swaziland and, in February, a member of staff visited them and all the projects paid for by the 2006 Appeal. The money raised in 2007 will pay for water butts at Manzana School, enabling the pupils to grow vegetables to take home. Many of the students live in child-headed households. The bulk of the money raised will be invested to pay for secondary education, three students sponsored by Bacon's started high school this January. A massive parcel was sent to Ekutsimleni School for the orphans, presents so much appreciated by children who have never received one before.

Edinburgh University Fashion Show update

The four classrooms financed by the fashion show are now virtually completed. We visited three of them in November. At one, Hhohho Primary, we had a display of some of the best Sibhaca dancing we have ever seen.



Sibhaca display at Hhohho



Students at Manzana Primary School

St. Philip's School

St. Philip's School (London) raised £2,350 in their 2007 appeal. We are so grateful to students, staff and parents for being so generous. The sum secures their sponsored orphan's entire education as well as funding a project at his school.

Baverstock Church

The SCT was the recipient of the Christmas collection from the congregation of Baverstock church in Dinton (Somerset). The money will be put in the secondary education fund. The average cost for a year in high school in Swaziland is £250.

Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

The SCT gave £2,500 to a Duke of Edinburgh Scheme to introduce the award to two young offenders institutions in Swaziland. The aim is to give young offenders a new sense of purpose and skills training thereby encouraging gainful employment on release.



Rowan Howe, Swaziland Chair, with Sizwe Ndlangamandla, the Manager

Future projects

Thanks to a generous donor we have £500 for a further chicken broiler unit for a primary school. Head teachers use the income generated to pay for school meals for their OVCs.

The SCT is also investigating support for a bee keeping operation, again to generate income for the care of OVCs.

Moya Centre

At the Moya Centre, the SCT will continue to support their work in training child-headed households in trench gardening.

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