

SOUTH AFRICA CHARITY NEWSLETTER. JUNE2011

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. As most of you are aware we have three main projects In Durban, South Africa and we will give you a brief update on each. **Without your help and support none of this would be possible.**

The Durban's Children Home.

We have been involved with this home since 2004 and is a home for both orphaned boys and girls with a special unit for under 12s suffering from HIV and other related diseases. The home also has a drug rehabilitation unit. Don Miles the Chairman of the Sussex Women's Cricket Association had a sister Margaret who died late 2009. She used to give us donations and had an elderly friend who used to knit cardigans and gloves for the children. At a cricket function Don announced that he had a special presentation for us. To say we were speechless was an understatement when he announced that his sister had left the home £40,000 plus some shares. The money will be used for a special project which Don will agree and we will project manage with the Directors of the Home.

The Gozololo School for the Needy.

There are two schools both in poverty-ridden townships one in Kwazi Mashu and the other in Umgababa. The children that attend these schools are under 6 years of age and the schools are now accepting children as young as 18 months. (See photograph) Many of the children are orphaned and are placed with 'Grannies' in the Community as these two areas have some of the highest rates of HIV in Southern Africa. Children are often just found wandering the streets their parents having died and the school will not turn anyone away. In addition to providing them with clothing and jumpers we give the schools 7000 rand a year (approx £700) for five children to attend school and be fed. The school endeavour to feed over 2000 children in the Community on a daily basis and without that many would go hungry. We recently purchased for the school a large cooking stove to replace a broken one.

The Pinetown Crisis Centre.

A truly remarkable woman Thora Mansfield who is 74 years of age runs this Crisis Centre in Pinetown. The Crisis Centre deals with supporting all victims of crime including domestic violence, serious sexual assaults many of which are on children as young as 9 months and includes HIV testing. The Centre also provides Counsellors in the township of Hammersdale providing support and food. Thanks to Ian Petrie the British Airways Commercial Manager in Africa he facilitated Thora coming over to this country in March of this year. During her visit thanks to Mary Barry from Community Relations she visited a special YMCA project, which British Airways are involved in Hove in Sussex. Through the Director of Sussex Victims Support Graham Hill she visited the Sussex Police Rape Centre and Crawley Police Station and thanks to Alexia Walker Thora gave a presentations at Brighton College School Assembly and also at 6th Form at Cardinal Newman School in Hove. I know that many of the people who listened to Thora were extremely moved and were shocked by the case histories. On our last visit we took 90 knitted baby jumpers the majority knitted by Doris who is 86 years of age who we cannot thank enough. We also provided over £500 worth of hand puppets and emotion balls, books and games to help the children who have been sexually abused in their counselling.

Miscellaneous.

At extremely short notice due to an earthquake disaster we were able to provide 9 boxes of children's clothing to San Paulo in Brazil. In addition we have sent out to Uganda baby clothing for an orphanage sponsored by British Airways, a full set of football kit to Nairobi for a team that is supported by a Special Service Staff member at London Gatwick and 14 boxes of books for Operation Zimba supported by British Airways World Cargo.

Thanks.

None of this would be possible without your help and support either by donating baby and children's clothing, football kits, buying Rhona's preserves, supporting Rhona's coffee mornings or giving us cash donations. We have so many people to thank but would like in particular to thank British Airways Corporate Security, The British Airways Gatwick Cabin Crew and Support Staff, Adur Athletic Football Club, Worthing United Football Club and Don Miles and the Sussex Women's Cricket Association and supporters. Thank you all so much.

Summary

The situation in Africa is getting worse and every time we visit our projects there seems to be more hardship and grief mainly due to the loss of immediate family. The children who we like to spend time with show little emotion but the sadness can be seen in particular in their eyes. (See photograph). We feel honoured and so privileged to be able to touch the lives of some of these children remembering our one aim **'IF WE CAN MAKE ONE CHILD SMILE THEN IT IS ALL WORTHWHILE'**.

Rhona and Terry Burton

