

CHARITY NEWSLETTER

Since we last sent out our newsletter we have made a recent visit to Durban, South Africa and we wanted to update you all on developments and how your contributions supporting the charities have been distributed. Firstly we would like to thank you all for your donations either by attending and supporting Rhona's coffee mornings, buying the preserves, donating clothing, toys, books or cash. Without your support we would not have been able to achieve the support we have given to several deserving organisations and being able to put smiles on many such lovely but underprivileged children the majority being orphaned and many with HIV and other related illnesses.

Through your generosity we were able to take out to South Africa £1,205 in cash in addition to 4 suitcases full of children's clothing plus the purchase of another set of Persona Dolls to be used by the Pinetown Crisis Centre in helping young children who have been the subject of either physical or sexual abuse and they are used by specialist social workers to assist in getting the children to recount their horrendous ordeals and hopefully put the perpetrators behind bars where they belong. This centre had some of the children's clothing which was being distributed to needy children in the townships.

Whilst we were visiting the centre a call was received that a father had been bathing his baby when the baby had accidentally drowned. He had run out into the street and neighbours rushed the baby to hospital where it was pronounced dead. The father was found in the house a short time later having committed suicide leaving a wife and other young children. Incidents like this are a regular part of life in a township.

The other part of the clothing went to the Gonzola School for the Needy which is situated in one of South Africa's most dangerous townships Kwazi Mashu. We gave £650 to this school for the schooling for a year for five orphaned children which means also they are fed on a twice daily basis whilst at school.

Miriam Cele a truly remarkable woman who runs this school and another in the township of Umgababa south of Durban where we previously supplied the monkey gyms also supplies basic food for 2000 people on a weekly basis to the poor and needy in the community and the special stove that is required for the large pans was beyond repair so we have funded a new one at a cost of £350.

In addition we have sent out baby clothing to an orphanage in Kampala, Uganda together with children's clothing to another orphanage supported by Captain Mike Crabtree and other British Airways Cabin Crew.

Margaret a wonderful lady from Southampton who unfortunately died last year took such a great interest in our charity work. Just prior to our recent trip we discovered that she had generously left our other project 'The Durban's Children's Home' £45,000 which we will project manage and will be used in a number of areas within the home including the drugs abuse centre for children between twelve and fifteen

The people that have benefited from your generosity cannot thank you enough and on their behalf THANK YOU ALL. As we always say 'IF WE CAN MAKE JUST ONE CHILD SMILE AND GIVE SOME HAPPINESS IT MAKES ALL OF THIS SO WORTHWHILE.

Rhona and Terry Burton

