



THE JUST CHILDREN FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

October 2010

Please note that our Mweb email address has changed from justkids@mweb.co.zw to justkids@iwayafrica.co.zw or send emails to jcf@jcf.co.zw. Charlotte has created a new group on Facebook. All are invited to join "The Just Children Foundation" group to be kept updated on what is happening at JCF. Invite your friends too. Our office phone lines are down so alternatively contact us on 0772 328 366, 0772 240 168 and 0772 408 795.

FAITH AND HOPE CENTRE



The Kitchen at Faith and Hope

A clean slate for Faith and Hope

Exciting work is taking place at Faith and Hope Centre. Thanks to the Mama family and the fundraising activities taking place at Amanzi restaurant in Harare, we have been able to begin the renovations required by social welfare in order for Faith and Hope to become a registered centre.

Progress in the last month has included the removal of bath tubs, toilet seats and cisterns in all the bathrooms. The downstairs bathroom already has a new sink as well as undergoing the installation of shower heads and mixers and a new toilet seat and cistern. The plumbing is being finalized for the upstairs bathrooms and, as can be

seen in the photograph above, the kitchen has been retiled completely.

From the ground to the table

The garden at Faith and Hope has blossomed since the new borehole has been working. The potato crop has been very good and is flowering nicely. We will be able to harvest and sell our potatoes in a few months time but have already had a very successful harvest of the red onions and eggplant at the centre. These have been well cared for by the groundsmen and we would like to thank them and the project manager, Martha, for the hard work that they have put into these crops.

The children have also had a treat from the garden this month and have been able to enjoy fresh strawberries for pudding. We would love to be able to grow more in the garden and appreciate any donations of seeds or advice that our friends and family might be able to give.



The potato plants at Faith and Hope Centre

The centre was experiencing problems with its borehole but we are happy to report that the problem was seen to and the centre now has an uninterrupted supply of water. This had also begun to affect our garden. But as can be noted by the successful harvests we have experienced, it is beginning to look up.



Aubergine ready to be harvested



Red onions waiting to be enjoyed

As mentioned in the September newsletter, we have been growing maize using the Foundation for Farming method at Faith and Hope Centre. We have one plot growing so far and wish to plant a further plot as soon as possible. This maize will be ready in 3 months time and will also be enjoyed by the children.

Land preparation for the summer crop of maize has been done and we are looking forward to increasing the size and production of our garden in order to ensure that we can provide food for the children as well as generating income for further projects.

COME UNTO ME CENTRE (Karoi)
Gifts brought to Karoi from across the seas



Saskia with Mama Kas and Sheila in the computer room with the new desks and chairs

We were very fortunate to be visited this month by Saskia Dean, a member of the Ten Foundation, who came from Holland to see the work that is taking place at the Come Unto Me Centre in which she and the Ten Foundation have been greatly involved.

Saskia and her team have generously organized for the donation of 23 computers to the foundation and have been instrumental in managing their transportation to Zimbabwe. They have also assisted in ensuring the children have desks and chairs to sit on when using the computers and we hope to have the computer room set up at Come Unto Me by the end of November.

The Ten Foundation has also been involved in assisting in other projects at Come Unto Me Centre, including the mushroom project and the successful poultry project managed by Sheila, our centre administrator.

Chickens leave their coop at Come Unto Me Centre



The chickens ready to be sold at Come Unto Me



Baby chicks being fed

We would like to thank the Barclays Bank Prestige Branch and the Child Protection Society for empowering us to carry out the poultry project which they sponsored in December and April 2009.

We have sold five batches of chickens thus far with total sales accumulating to 389 chickens, this income allowing us to buy food and medication for the children at both Faith and Hope and Come Unto Me Centres. The children have also been able to benefit from the poultry project by being provided with a treat of chicken for supper on occasions when there have been enough to spare.

At present, we have two batches of chickens being prepared for sale. The older batch is 7 weeks old and will be sold in the next few weeks while the two week old chicks will be fed up to be sold in time for Christmas. The benefits accrued from such projects are not only monetary. The children learn about business and how to look after these projects so that they are profitable and we thank our sponsors for this opportunity.

EXCITING PROGRESS OF JCF STAFF

We would like to congratulate two of our staff members who have graduated in the month of October. Peggy, one of caregivers, excelled in her course in 'Child Development and Care in Residential Care and Counselling' through the Viva Network. She graduated at a ceremony held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Harare. Mama Kas attended the breakfast meeting/graduation ceremony and represented JCF.

People came in as far from Bulawayo to receive their certificates with organisations such as Youth with a Mission, Oasis, Presbyterian and Harvest House among others. The board chairman presented certificates to the 20 students who had passed the course. Peggy's participation in the programme enabled her to network with people from other organisations in a similar line of work as JCF and we hope that they will continue to empower one another as they carry on the work in their various organisations. We hope that she will now be able to bring some of her knowledge gained through this course to the other staff members and that we might all be able to learn from her experience. We are very proud of her commitment to her studies and thank her for being a great asset to the organization.

Dout, a groundsman at Faith and Hope Centre, received training in Drip Irrigation, Nutritional Gardens and Livestock offered by The Lead Trust under European Union programmes. Dout managed to do the theories in a week at Jameson Hotel but practical took longer as this was part of the training. Dout was presented with a certificate in recognition of the effort that he made towards this achievement. Martha, our project manager,

attended the presentation and reported that he excelled in his practical presentation. Well done Dout and we look forward to seeing the fruits of all your hard work.



Dout with his certificate outside Faith and Hope Centre

An opportunity for you to benefit from JCF's work

Due to the donations made by those friends who have supported the projects taking place at JCF, we would like to offer all our friends the opportunity to test the product of our labour. If you would like to buy veggies from the garden at Faith and Hope, including red onions and aubergine, or if you would like to purchase chickens reared through our poultry project, please do not hesitate to contact Charlotte Haggie on 0776 404 349 or at chaggie@gmail.com.

DONATIONS

We would like to thank our friends and partners who continually stand with us and give of their time and resources.

Friday treat for JCF children

For the last few months, the children at both Faith and Hope and Come Unto Me have been treated with pork pies donated by Ben Burr of Colcom. This treat has been greatly appreciated by the children who are ever expectant of their pies when we go out to visit them!

Every little bit counts

We had an exciting day on Saturday when two of our volunteers took some of our extra donations that the children cannot benefit from to a car boot sale. The clothes were sold for a minimum price but we managed to raise a little extra income that will be put towards general costs for the organization. We wish to carry out more projects like this and would like to set up a second hand

shop in order to ensure that we can use those donations that the children cannot use to our best advantage. If you have any extra clothes or other items that you cannot use any longer, any donations would be great appreciated.

How can YOU get involved?

If you would like to take part in any of the projects mentioned in this newsletter or would like to know more about the needs of the organization, please contact us on the details given at the end of the letter.

Donations Received in October

We would like to thank the following who donated to the work and also thank those who prefer to remain anonymous:

Ben Burr
Natalie Detering
Loveness Gombe
The Ten Foundation
Rebecca Dowling

PROJECT OF THE MONTH

With summer fast upon us, temperatures are rising and the long walk to and from school leaves the children hot and dusty. Those children living in the heat of Karoi do not have access to water at present and are kept on a strict budget when it comes to drinking water or even showering after a long day in the sun.

Although the council has very generously offered to dig a borehole for us, they are having trouble accessing any water as the water table is so low. Even if they manage to find water, the pump that we currently have at Come Unto Me is broken and we are working to get it fixed.

Our project this month is to ensure that the children have access to water as soon as possible. If you would like to contribute to this project, please do let us know if you can help with a donation towards municipal water for the tanks or the fixing of the pump. Otherwise, if you know of anyone who might be able to help us get the pump fixed, please do not hesitate to contact Martha Damu, our Projects Manager, on 0912408795 or via email at marthadamu@gmail.com



Children eating under the limited shade on the Come Unto Me Centre



Plants in the garden suffering under the mid day heat



Additional Supplement – A JCF Success Story



Carlos was referred to JCF Faith and Hope by Harare Central Social Work in 2009 in April. He was \pm 2 years old and he was just under age. In September 2009, he fell ill with sores all over his body and he could not eat well. I came back from leave at the end of October 2008 hoping to see Carlos better but I found the opposite. I went to the head office of JCF at Luck Street to seek advice from the managers. They told me that the child had been to the Parirenyetwa Hospital (a hospital in Harare) on several occasions but there was no change.

Still I remember that on that very day that I went to the head office, a caregiver showed Carlos to one of the managers. She took off Carlos' clothes so that the manager could see the state that he was in. The manager cried after seeing the child – she could see his skeleton body and she gave me meat and eggs to feed the child.

I prayed for wisdom and then I asked Pastor Philani to allow me to take the child to Karoi to see the doctor there. I went to the doctor and everything was opposite to what I expected. He wanted US\$60 but I had nothing with me. He referred me to the Karoi District Hospital with the help of a sister there, we requested for the child to be tested for HIV. The results were negative and I thanked the Lord. The sister at the hospital advised me to feed the child eight times a day. She then wrote the child's diet out for me and included some plumpnuts (a nutritious paste similar to peanut butter), saying that he had severe malnutrition and I think that is why the mother abandoned him in Harare.

After leaving the hospital, I said 'Lord, may you give me love and wisdom to feed Carlos. May Carlos be a living testimony'. I volunteered to feed Carlos instead of giving him to the caregivers to look after him. At Faith and Hope, I started feeding Carlos eight times a day until we went back for a review after two weeks. Nurses were happy to see the improvement of the child and I was given some more plumpnuts. After the review I left Carlos at Come Unto Me Centre in Karoi, hoping to collect him at the end of October. In November 2009, I was transferred to Come Unto Me and Carlos was running around with the other children. Instead of him going back to Harare, I requested for him to stay there with me.

Carlos has found Rita, an 11 year old girl, who has become his sister. She is like his biological sister. He calls her 'shishi' Rita. The loves she has shown Carlos is so touching. On Sundays, she knocks early in the morning asking for the child's clothes so that she can go with him to church.

God's hand was upon Carlos and I feel sorry for the biological mother out there. We have seen the glory of God by raising Carlos and nursing him when he had wounds all over his body. Peggy, one of JCF's caregiver's, can testify to this. She once cleaned the wounds on his head. Indeed He is a living God. He is always with us and he will not forsake us.



*Sheila Matombo
Come Unto Me Centre
The Just Children Foundation*

Carlos as he is today – a strong, healthy and happy child

CONTACT DETAILS OF THE JUST CHILDREN FOUNDATION:

HEADOFFICE: THE SHELTER OF JOY

11 Luck Street

Kopje

Harare

Tel: 00 263 4 781 890/749398

Email: jcf@jcf.co.zw

Website: www.justchildrenfoundation.org

CONTACT PERSON:

Nomathemba Kasimonje (Mrs)

Acting Executive Director

Mobile No: 00 263 77 2 240 168

Email: nomak@jcf.co.zw