



Jacob's Well Appeal

Winter 2024-5 Newsletter



Sunrise Disability Centre, Madagascar

On Oct 26th the first centre for the support and education of people with disabilities on the island of Nosy Be, Madagascar was opened. This building of this centre had been financed by Jacob's Well Appeal. The opening ceremony represented the end of a long journey. The old Sunrise centre, which had opened a year before in a rented building had enabled Nathan Stapley, the centre director to start gathering disabled children and their families from across the island. It opened with 40 children. A year later, this had become 60, as more families came forward admitting that they had disabled children. Families often hide their disabled children in Madagascar. They are often ashamed that they have children who are not normal, and there are no state facilities or medical help to enable them to overcome the practical difficulties that they have.

When Nathan was told he had to leave the rented building, the first task was to find suitable land that they could buy to build on. The land had to be flat, around 800 square metres, and also have to have title deeds so that it could be legally transferred—not always easy in Madagascar. It also had to be easily accessible for the pupils to get there. After a long search a suitable piece of land was found in a community called Menapingo, not far from the newly paved road. The land was bought. Then began the daunting process of designing and building a centre that was visually stunning, incorporating traditional Malagasy designs with the accessibility needed for a centre which supports people with disabilities. They wanted a nice, open area, out of the way of the harsh sun, yet still outdoors and surrounded by nature. The new centre would be off-grid. Water would have to be filtered from on-site wells and electricity from solar panels. The huge terrace space in front of the facility, alongside the beautiful surrounding garden allow the teaching of skills that were impossible at the old centre.

Future needs include the construction of an outdoor play park and a paved road to run from the main road to the centre.



Above; the covered area of the new Sunrise Centre
Below; The school bus full of disabled children often gets stuck between the main road and the centre



Warehouse Sales; 22nd Mar, 16th Aug, 22nd Nov 9am -1pm
@ Jacob's Well Yard, Beverley, HU17 0JX

Charity Sales; 12th Apr, 10th May, 14th June, 12th July, 27th Sept,
25th Oct @ Toll Gavel Church Drive, Beverley, HU17 9AA

NORTHERN GHANA

Agriculture – we continue working with 150 women in Northern Ghana through long-standing seed bank projects. We also work with our local partner, Ruby, who runs various projects on our behalf in smaller communities planting groundnut, Bambara beans and Guinea corn. The women in the communities have worked hard and, despite the drought, the harvest has overall been successful. We hope to continue with these projects which support very poor, isolated and vulnerable communities. We also are continuing to support and expand dry season farming in this area, which enables the people to grow salad and vegetable crops throughout the dry season.

Feeding School Children

We have received a grant from the Souter Trust to help feed children that attend a school in a community called Sanouri. Due to lack of funds, the government have withdrawn their support for school meals. This caused the number of children attending the school to fall. The school has a small garden and have been selling produce to make money. Additionally, they have now been given 4 acres of land and our partner in Ghana aims to provide assistance and training to turn this land into a working farm.

School Uniforms We are looking for financial support to help provide new uniforms for the children. Fifty new uniforms would cost £850 – these would be made in Ghana by local seamstresses using local fabrics, which gives employment for workers in the area. If anyone would like to support this please send your money to the office marked Ghana uniforms.

Sanitary Pad projects

This year we have run 4 sanitary pad projects in Northern Ghana, teaching the girls how to make a re-usable pads as well as giving them some sex education. The director of education for the region wrote; saying; *“On behalf of the management of the Municipal Directorate of Education, and on my own behalf, I wish to express our profound gratitude to you for your invaluable contribution to the development of female pupils in basic schools in the Municipality. The skills many of them have acquired from your training on the making of reusable pads is a very essential life skill which is not only helping them manage the challenge of the inability to afford sanitary pads and its attendant problems, but will surely transcend generations. This will undoubtedly contribute significantly towards improving learning out-comes in the long run.”* The number of teenage girls that drop out of school when menstruation starts is far less in the areas where these projects are run. They have asked us to run the project in all the schools in the Wa region, including a school for the blind. Donations to this project would be much appreciated.

Boreholes

We have also dug a borehole for the remote community of Daarbateng, who previously had to travel 10 kilometres for clean water. Unsurprisingly, they usually collect their water from a nearby pond rather than make the 20 Km round trip. We were also able to repair an unusable borehole for the Nakaate Community.

There are many communities desperate for clean water. We have similar borehole requests at the moment where communities are drinking dirty water, putting their lives at risk and leading to general poor health because they can not access clean water. If anyone would like to sponsor one of these boreholes please send the money to the office marked Ghana boreholes. They cost around £4,000 to £5,000 (depending on how isolated the village is and how far down we need to bore) but any amount of money would be helpful!



Above. Liz Lyle, one of our trustees, visits projects. **Below;** the “kitchen” used to cook for 220 children



Below; Girls make reusable Sanitary Pads at the school



Michael Longcaster with a Ukrainian pupil and mum stack shoe boxes for Jacob's Well at Molescroft Primary School, Beverley



Annual Shoe Box Appeal

At this time of year, our warehouse starts filling up with hundreds of shoe box gifts for poor children overseas. Many different community groups, churches and schools are involved in making these, as well as lots of individuals — with boxes coming from Grimsby, Lincoln, York Hull and beyond.

We would like to say a big thank you to all those who have made shoe box gifts. If you are able to contribute £1 towards the overseas transport costs of your box, that is a great help. Last year we spent over £96,000 on transporting aid overseas. Each cubic metre on the lorries costs us between £125 (to Ukraine) and £375 (to the most expensive inland African destinations) to send.

ZAMBIA

Following our appeal in the last newsletter, to help the 205 children get over the immediate food crisis following last year's drought, we have been able to buy food for the orphans and school children. To help them become more self-sufficient into the longer term, we have dug a borehole and planted vegetables and fruit trees. Many boreholes have been unsuccessful because of the drought. Imagine how difficult it is for poor communities who manage to raise enough money to get a borehole, only for the drilling to be unsuccessful. We started drilling and at first got no water. Then the borehole collapsed! However our last attempt at drilling found water and the borehole has been working throughout the dry season. We are so fortunate to have taps with running water! We have also helped our partner purchase chickens to lay eggs for the children. Though quite a few of these have died, we still have 500 left which will be enough to feed the children once they start laying eggs!

CUBA

We have just started sending aid to Cuba—2 containers in the last month. Cuba is going through its worst economic crisis in 30 years. Since 2020, Cubans have suffered falling wages, deteriorating public services, regular power outages and severe shortages of food and other daily necessities. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled the country because of the extreme difficulty of life, exacerbated by the continuing US economic sanctions.

We have formed partnerships with 2 different humanitarian organisations who are very happy to receive our containers full of medical supplies. Cuba is unique in that it has a large number of well-trained doctors and health-care professionals but no medical products to give to the people. Because of the desperate shortage, the government has removed all the red tape and import charges that are often levied when bringing bring medical products into a country, making Cuba an ideal destination for our aid.

Annual General Meeting

We are holding our AGM on Monday 20th January at 1pm in the King's Church Hall (beside the Jacob's Well Appeal office). If you would like to attend please email office@jacobswellappeal.org to let us know.

Value and Destinations of Aid sent in 2024

Education £8,512 Food £3,509 Agriculture £17,743 Household £34,815, Medical £3,925,144
Total: £3,938,500

This aid was sent to Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Congo Brazzaville, Cuba, England, Ghana, Iraq, Malawi, Nigeria, Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Uganda, Ukraine and Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Launching a recovery network in Sierra Leone

Drug addiction is ravaging Sierra Leone, leaving a devastating impact on communities across the nation. There is no existing network or widespread understanding of addiction recovery, yet the need has never been more urgent. Our partners, Joe and Sarah Boxall, are moving beyond the urban slum communities and into the heart of Sierra Leone, training facilitators to establish 12-step recovery groups. These groups, proven successful worldwide, provide a vital support system for individuals seeking to break free from addiction and transform their lives.



Currently, Sierra Leone faces a national emergency with a new synthetic drug, kush, which is devastating the youth population. Spark2Action's vision is to pioneer the 12 step model, equipping communities to sustain recovery networks independently. However, to reach remote areas and train facilitators, Joe and Sarah urgently need a reliable vehicle to transport trainers and resources across the country.

At present, the work is carried out using old, unreliable local vehicles. They often break down and need repairs, sometimes in remote places, meaning that someone has to go on a motorbike to find a mechanic and parts, which can take days. They hope to purchase a replacement 4x4 Toyota Landcruiser, which would make it possible to visit remote communities all year round, even places where the roads are almost non-existent. It is not easy to purchase good, reliable second hand left hand drive vehicles over there. A new 10 seater model would be a dream as it would last for years to come. Including shipping and import tax to Sierra Leone, that would cost around £34,000.

Abundant Favour; A Home for Street Children in Uganda

The town of Namayingo lies at the North-East corner of Lake Victoria. That is the home of



Abundant Favour Christian Ministries International", who provide education and support for over 700 children who are orphaned, abused, abandoned, neglected and handicapped, as well as those who have escaped from child slavery. Since our last newsletter, we have been able to build a dormitory to house 122 of these children who would otherwise be living feral on the streets. We are seeking an additional £3550 to build a kitchen, £2650 to build a toilet block and £7600 to drill a borehole. Currently the water comes from a local pond. If you would like to donate to this project please use the reference Uganda.

DONATIONS: - Via Internet Banking

Account Name: Jacobs Well Appeal

Account Number: 67235135

Sort Code: 08-92-99

Do you have email? If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, save costs and the environment, please send your email address to office@jacobswellappeal.org with your name and postal address, so we can update our database. Thank you!

MEDICATION

Sadly we are no longer able to send patients' medication abroad. If you send us your medication, even if it has never been opened, we will have to pay to have it destroyed. Please return it to your local pharmacy.



A HUGE thank you to all our amazing volunteers and to all those who support us by donating money, medical supplies, items to sell, knitting blankets and making shoe boxes. **If the monies raised exceed the amount needed for the projects mentioned in this newsletter, we will use the extra money to fund similar projects.**