



Update during very difficult times

In March we sent out the following letter by e-mail.

For those of you who do not receive our e-mail communications, it is reprinted here.

Turn over the page to read about the exciting response

Whilst we have been on 'lockdown' in the UK and practising social distancing, Kenya too is no exception. The Kenyan Government have closed all schools and have many restrictions in place similar to us. The school closure has hit our poorest families hard since the feeding programme has been suspended.

As Trustees we have a responsibility to make sure everyone at Unity School has our support and we are helping in whatever way we can.

Unity School has had to make some difficult decisions and we have been liaising closely with their Management Team. They have been able to retain their senior teachers, the cooks and the day and night watchman but on reduced salaries. Sadly the rest of the teachers are now on unpaid leave. The management team and senior teachers are integral to the future of Unity School. Good teachers are hard to find in Mombasa.

There are quite a few children who will travel to the countryside with their parents to stay with grandparents or other relatives until Unity School re-opens. The population in the countryside is less dense which will help the children and parents to stay well and hopefully less chance of contracting the virus.

The 8 pupils who were living in the orphanage have been taken in by local families for a short period and this is reviewed weekly.

So.....where does all this leave Friends of the Mombasa Children?

Our fundraising events have of course all been cancelled, at least for the next six months or so. We are very grateful for the continued financial support with our monthly and annually supporters, plus regular donations. This will support those managers and senior teachers still in place, plus any outstanding fees for our further education and medical treatment. We have recently finalised our three year budget and looking at this year, 2020/2021, our monthly support will be £300 short because of the cancellation of fundraising events.

We are aware that people are suffering financially here in the UK, but if you were able to help by just a small amount each month, either to extend the amount you are already giving, or just an additional amount as and when you can, we would be so grateful.

Please help us to keep Unity School going during their lockdown so that the pupils have a school to go back to! With your support we would like to continue the medical programme which we have reluctantly suspended for the time being. We would also like to help our poorest families by purchasing food for them.

THANK YOU

The Trustees wish to thank all our supporters who responded to our appeal.

Thanks to your generosity we have been able to arrange emergency medical provision for the next three months.

We have also been given sufficient funds to feed some of our poorest families.

Below: Head Teacher Mary Obara and School Manager Norbert Werre hand over Maize flour, rice, cooking oil, sugar and soap.



All our fundraising plans are now on hold, so there is nothing “Coming Soon”.

We hope to re-arrange the Sale of Everything to the Autumn.

We wait and see if Broadwater carnival or the Worthing Lions Sea Front fair take place at the end of July. The sponsored walk up Mount Snowdon could take place in the Autumn or in 2021

We are in the process of a handover to a new Treasurer. Khatija Volk became our newest Trustee this year and will be taking over from Chris Azzaro our present Treasurer over the next few months. Chris will of course continue to be a Trustee. More from Khatija in our next newsletter.

You can donate via <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/mombasachildren>

Or by on-line banking. Our Treasurer Chris Azzaro can give more advice.

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Friends of the Mombasa Children C.I.O. is a registered charity number 1155625

There is more information about Unity School, Mombasa and all our activities on our website: www.mombasachildren.org.uk