

Newsletter June 2020



Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have given additional financial support during these difficult last few months. We are so grateful and your help has made such a difference. It has enabled our feeding and medical support to continue until at least the end of July. Packs of flour maize and beans are given out on a monthly basis to those most in need. Dr Luke, who has for many years looked after the medical needs of the pupils, continues to see those with illnesses such as malaria, skin conditions and asthma. For any more serious conditions, the parents are required to take their children to hospital. The matron still lives in the house that we rent next to the school and pupils are required to see her for a stamped receipt before they can see Dr Luke.

At the time of writing this newsletter, there is no news when schools in Kenya will be allowed to open. Teachers are hoping that their year 8 classes (whose exams are due to take place in October), will be allowed back with social distancing. This is not yet confirmed.

The Kenyan Government has suggested all pupils access the internet for home learning but this is sadly not possible for the majority of pupils from extremely poor backgrounds, as very few parents can afford to have the internet. We have been fortunate in an additional donation which has enabled Unity School to prepare and photocopy packs of work for the pupils. The parents collect the packs from the school gate on a Monday morning and return the written work on a Friday ready for marking. A new pack is then given out the following

How we are helping our children and friends at Unity School, Mombasa, during the lockdown.

Thank you for all your support

Monday. Unity School is fortunate that a photocopier was bought for the school last year.

We are not expecting to be able to resume our fundraising this year, and so we have tried to think of other ways to fundraise online. You may have seen our notification about our 'African Hamper' raffle. If you have not purchased a £5 ticket yet and would like one please go to the virgin money link at the end of this newsletter and then email c.groves@mombasachildren.org.uk stating you have bought a ticket and you will be added to the list. A draw will take place on 1st August live on Facebook and the lucky winner will also get an email letting them know they have won. The hamper will be delivered if you live locally or if not by parcel post. Please have a go - there are lots of Africa goodies in the hamper including some lovely jewellery.

To Kenyan children education is the key to their future. An opportunity to rise above the poverty they are in and to realise their dreams. The staff and pupils at Unity School are so grateful for all the support they have received and it is only through all of you that we have been able to continue to support them. If there is anyone who could afford £5 a month or £60 a year please do get in touch either by email or letter - see below.

God bless you all and keep safe

To donate via Virgin Money Giving please use the address:
<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/mombasachildren>

An introduction from our new Treasurer Khatija Volk

I was born at the Aga Khan hospital in Kisumu, which was then a small town on the shores of Lake Victoria. I attended the Aga Khan nursery and primary schools. I was very lucky to have had a really happy childhood in Kenya and have very fond memories of going to Mombasa with my family. My upbringing was focussed very much on education, as my family understood that education is a very important asset in life. It is an asset that can give you the opportunity to realise your dreams, and help you earn a living to provide food and shelter for yourself and your family. Education is an asset that no one can take away from you.



I was married very young and have 4 children and 9 grandchildren. After my divorce, whilst my children were very young, I went back to education and qualified as an Accountant. This enabled me to provide for my family.

Education should be available to every child and I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to join Friends of Mombasa children, giving me an opportunity to support children in Mombasa achieve a good education, so that they too can have a chance to grow up and support their families and realise their dreams.

I look forward to working with FOMC Trustees and to meeting everyone at Unity School and working by your side. *Khatija*

Chris Azzaro, who has been working with our new treasurer Khatija for a smooth handover, had been our treasurer since 2007. Chris has implemented many changes to our finances over the years and thanks to Chris we have an exemplary accounting system. Chris will be continuing as a Trustee and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his 13 years as our Treasurer. *Carol Groves, Chair*

Earlier in the year all our fundraising plans were put on hold. However we now have another possible date for the Great Sale of Everything. Saturday 31st October 2020.

The sponsored walk up Mount Snowdon has now been re-booked for May 2021



Food being distributed to needy families –I'm pleased to report that this now takes place in the open air to reduce possible infection. Thank you for your support.

You can donate to Friends of the Mombasa Children via

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/mombasachildren>

Or by on-line banking. Our Treasurer Khatija Volk or Carol Groves can give you more advice.

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