

**Newsletter February 2022**



**Welcome to our first  
Newsletter of 2022**

## **Review of 2021**

The last two years have been a struggle in maintaining the income we require to enable us to continue our support to Unity School. Last summer we were able to resume some of our fundraising events, and Carol and Steph successfully cycled to Brighton and back and raised £2535. Chris and Maddy eventually managed to get to Wales (after two false starts), and climbed Snowdon, raising almost £2000. The return of the Worthing Lions Charity Sale gave us the opportunity for our stall for two days in Steyne Gardens, as well as managing to have our 'Sale of Everything' (first time for over two years).

A first for us last year was a successful application to the 'Big Give Christmas Challenge', which resulted in 'Pledges' being made, which were matched funded with the 'online' event first week of December. This resulted in a final total of £3701. This is restricted for our medical project.

**Thank you so much to everyone who supported the above events**

## **2022 – WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO TO SECURE OUR CHARITY INTO THE FUTURE?**

A third of our income is from supporters who give a regular amount by standing order each month. If you could give £5 or more a month on a regular basis (£5 is less than the price of a coffee and a cake), please do get in touch with either Carol Groves or our Treasurer, Khatija Volk – see emails below. We would really appreciate your support.

We have volunteers who run Friends of the Mombasa Children and NO paid workers. Our administration expenses, which include public liability insurance, website maintenance and other small admin costs, are only 3% of our income.

As well as continuing to need the help of all our supporters, we for our part are looking at different funding streams, such as corporate giving, online events such as the Big Give or others, promote our monthly support, and look to improving our marketing and publicity. If anyone out there has marketing and publicity skills and would like to help us, please do get in touch.

## From Mr Norbert Were, Unity School Manager

*I trust you are doing well and you have all begun the year well. Unity is doing fine and thank you for your unequivocal support.*

*We opened for the new term on 3rd January 2022 after a short break of only 10 days in December last year. The Unity Staff and children who were present in the orphanage appreciated the gifts sent to them at Christmas.*

*Learning is going on smoothly. We are so happy that the third term kicked off on a high note. Learners are enthusiastic save for a few who need really close monitoring by their teachers. Lives are being touched here thanks so much for the incessant support; we could not do this by ourselves. This is the year that we will do our National Exams twice — in March and September. Teachers are really working round the clock to deliver good and pleasing results to the society here.*



Christmas lunch in the Orphanage—it looks like eating pilau, Chapattis, rice and more is a very serious business!



*My visit to the UK in 2020 was cancelled because of the pandemic, but I am in the process of obtaining my visa and hope to return to the UK in June this year. I look forward to seeing many of you then.*

## The Medical Programme

Dr Luke Odiaro who looks after the pupils' medical care at Unity School comments in his recent email:-  
*"The children are coming in with mostly the usual upper respiratory tract infections, Malaria, gastrointestinal issues and occasional Dengue Fever. We have noticed more fever and a lot of joint pains and fatigue. We initially thought it was influenza virus, but the tests done at the Kenya Medical Research Institute refuted this. It also coincided with a national surge in Omicron cases, but we could not get local confirmation because of the level of testing available."*

Dr Luke saw a total of 879 pupils last year (some were repeat visits). The cost per visit is in the region of £7 a child. This includes medication as well as the consultation with Dr Luke.

In the first week of February Dr Luke and his wife Pamela made a surprise visit to Unity School. They left behind some geometry sets to be given as prizes. Norbert Were appears to be enjoying a joke with Dr.Luke.



The re-built school office. Larger than before so that Unity senior staff now have an office each instead of just room for a desk.

The passageway looks smarter, too. More welcoming to visitors and a pathway that will not turn to mud when the rainy seasons arrive.



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Tuesday 15th March – Curry Night at the Monsoon Restaurant in Rustington.**

Price £20 to include buffet style meal (eat as much as you want), plus raffle and auction. Email or phone Carol if you would like to book tickets

### **Saturday morning 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Littlehampton United Church - Sale**

Over a thousand 2nd hand books, including many children's books. Also DVD's, CD's jigsaw puzzles and refreshments

10.00am—1.00pm, Free admission.



The cost of a cup of coffee and a cake at a local café or garden centre could make a life changing difference to a student in Mombasa. Could you donate the equivalent to a coffee and a cake each month? Interested? Contact Carol—address below.

Reminder – our online giving is no longer with Virgin Money Giving as they have ceased operating. We have now teamed up with Just Giving.com. You can donate to Friends of the Mombasa Children via

<https://www.justgiving.com/mombasa-children>

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