

CHink Academy Newsletter 2023

January 2023

In the many years since we have been a charity it is sometimes nice to reflect on what has been achieved. Starting as a very small organisation helping get six children sponsored, one of which is now in university in Nairobi. It then went from 6 to 86 and a bigger school was needed. So with a lot of fundraising we bought some land and began to build a school out of wood and tin sheeting. It had four classrooms, a kitchen, and a long drop toilet. More teachers were needed, a cook, and a guard to protect the land. The sponsor money for the children goes toward paying for teachers, food, books, medical and uniforms. The children get porridge for breakfast and a lunch which varies each day.

Now the school has grown with 212 children with 21 staff, 12 teachers, 1 administrator, 1 manager, 2 cooks, 3 cleaners, 1 day guard and 1 night guard. The school is now built of blocks and plaster and has nine classrooms, one computer room, a sewing room, an art room, a music room, and an exam/ conference room, staff room, heads office, and admin office. It has a large dining hall and kitchen, girls and boys toilets, and staff toilet, a guard house and two storage places. The school is kept very clean unlike most government schools that are very unhygienic. Each class has a limit of 21 children for a private school. This is unlike government schools where there can be 100 children in each class.



This was achieved with the help of the Retford Lions Club. Seven years ago, they put us forward to receive £50,000 to finish the new build which was amazing as we never knew where the money was going to come from.

Trustees started a charity shop in 2012 and all the money made goes into the building fund account. The shop is doing very well so we have now been able to buy some more land to build a safe house for the young girls in most need. It is for short stays for some of the poorest children who come to school with many problems. So, it might be one night or two weeks, or more if we can't sort out their problems straight away. For example, we have twin sisters whose father has aids is very sick and as they have no one to look after them, they will stay in the safe house until he is better.

Sadly, their mother died of aids when they were just 2 ½ years old. The girls have a good head on their shoulders and have had to grow up very quickly.

The achievement of our very poor pupils has been extraordinary. Giving them this chance has made it all worthwhile and our second boy started university in February in Nairobi, and we have four more at college.

All the children that first started with us in 2007 as four and five-year-olds have now finished high school and have made their own way into the world. A lot of them keep in touch and pop into school to see us.

There is a lot of upkeep required for the school, with new equipment to buy and things to repair, so our main priority is to the primary children's education, so we are now limited to paying out for high school fees as we once did, so more money is for Chink Academy.

The Kenya Government has now changed the school curriculum so instead of classes up to year 8 we now only go up to year 6 so they will go to high school at the age of 12 and not 14.

Artificial grass has been laid near the baby classes and a large piece of play equipment has been put up and this year, swings have been added, the kids were so excited. There is a school party every year and we buy the children underwear, toothbrushes and clothes and most importantly bras for the young girls.

Running CHink academy is not easy as there's always something happening. Teachers leave and need replacing, electric fences don't work, toilets blocked, hot water stops working, a new solar tank is needed, children come with a lot of problems wanting us to sort them out. We never thought in the beginning about all these things and had to learn along the way, always doing fund raising and just keeping going.

With all the highs and lows and hard work, we wouldn't change anything and are so proud to see what the charity has become. Every penny earned goes into the project, nothing is taken out and we wouldn't have been able to build this beautiful school and pay all the wages of if it didn't. Some people seem to think that trustees get paid, but they don't, they pay all their own way for flight and accommodation for every visit.

***There are many new children in the school awaiting sponsorship. They are all extremely poor and often orphaned, living with relatives or village elders. If you feel able to help and sponsor a child that would be fantastic, even if it's only for one year
We hope you can help.***

May 2023

The Safe House is coming along well now, and we are trying to get funding to help finish it as quickly as possible. Our twin girls need to be taken in as their father has aids and is very poorly. We also have a 4 ½ year old girl who has been very unwell. Initially we thought she'd been raped but as it turned out a boy had inserted a stick into her, and she needed some were to stay for a while. Sometimes you can't believe the things that happened.

Much of the money that should have gone towards the build has had to be used to pay for the kitchen hot water solar tank that had broken. Also, school desks and chairs had to be bought to replace the plastic ones which had become brittle and snapped and two new computers needed replacing. Of the new children starting this year, we could only take the very poor and needy and it's so hard to decide who, out of the 90 house checked, would fill the 22 places available. My daughter came with me over 2½ days and said she doesn't know how I do it, especially in the exhausting January heat. But we must keep going, as the charity's help is so much needed, we have to keep trying to get as many sponsors as possible, because the cost of food, uniforms, and medical has really gone up just like in the UK.



This is the second year of graduation for the PP2 class into Grade 1 Primary. It was a very exiting day for children, parents, staff and ourselves. Although we don't have our own Cap and Gowns, they were hired from another school. Hopefully by next year we will have our

own made and can hire them out to other schools. After the Certificates were awarded, the children received gifts from parents or guardians. Finally the cake was shared amongst the 22 children who had qualified. Cake is a special treat as most cannot afford these luxuries.



The new safe house for the Girls



CAN YOU HELP?

*There are many new children in our school awaiting sponsorship. . They are all extremely poor and often orphaned, living with relatives or village elders. If you feel able to help and sponsor a child that would be fantastic, even if it's only for one year. It is £20 per month or £240 per year. **We hope you can help.***

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