

Dear Friends

Autumn has now arrived, the leaves are turning to gold and the nights are drawing in. Life seems to pass by at a rapid pace! Thank you for the interest you continue to take in supporting Ladder of Hope and thus our friends in CINDI(Kansenshi).

Move towards self-sufficiency Eliz Lynch – now treasurer of CINDI(K) is proving to be a real asset. She has succeeded in getting the accounts onto a spread sheet and has also got CINDI(K) into on-line banking. Over the course of the last few months, Eliz has been talking to all of the CINDI(K) stake holders about the immediate and medium term future of the organisation. The original aim, of benefitting the children of Nkwazi whose lives have been blighted by poverty and the AIDS pandemic, still remains. The organisation is still needed, to stay relevant it needs to change and grow. One of the chief areas for growth relates to sustainability and a move towards greater self-funding for CINDI(K). Your donations are still very badly needed to support the work of CINDI(K) but the guardians see the need for everybody to look for additional ways of supplementing the income such that it can continue to provide the wonderful opportunities for fulfilled and happy lives, as the orphans and vulnerable children are assisted towards a better future. Several fund raising schemes are afoot and these are briefly outlined below:

- 1 The conversion of the Transit Home – which is no longer required as temporary accommodation – into rented accommodation for Further Education students. In order for this to happen, electricity and appropriate bathroom facilities will need to be installed: this would bring in a regular and reliable income for CINDI(K) and help to meet the wage bill.
- 2 An increasing number of couples use the Centre for wedding photos. There is a possibility that rooms could be rented out for wedding functions at weekends when the site stands idle.
- 3 A 'Boot-Type' fair for the sale of unwanted items.
- 4 Renting the rooms for Sunday services
- 5 Refurbish and re-stock the library and make it more widely available for community use.

These are just a few of the ideas buzzing around. They do need extra input to get them up and running so if you feel there is a particular project you would like to support, please let us know and we will let you have more details.

The children & their families continue to need all the support they can get. As always, whatever is going on in the wider world, they struggle for day to day existence and without the help of CINDI(K) will never get their feet on any kind of ladder. New cases continue to be taken on – guardians who cannot cope with the needs of growing families and children who are without a responsible adult in their lives. An example of this is a recently registered Guardian, Rosemary 68. She has two of her grandchildren in her care and is finding it hard to cope. These two children are now in the Community school and the family is being offered other practical help.

The death of Etiness Nambeye resulted in four orphans who were passed into their Aunt's care with help of CINDI(K).

Richard Kapotwe is a child with special needs and has been funded for two terms in a local school until a more suitable place can be found for him. Michael Kabwita and his brothers lost both parents in 2007 at which point they were taken away to live with an uncle who mistreated them. Michael did some piece-work to get fares back to Ndola, he then ran away from the uncle taking his siblings with him. Unfortunately when they got to Ndola, Michael could not remember where their relatives lived and the children fell in with other street kids. An aunt, recognised the boys, rescued them and registered them with CINDI(K). The family is now being supported by CINDI(K).

From these little thumb nail stories, you can see that CINDI(K) remains a vital life-line for the poor of Nkwazi. Food, salt and soap continue to be provided for the most needy families.

The farm continues to prosper despite some problems with the water pump and the collapse of the guard's insaka (thatched shelter). Yields for the year are expected to be high – so we hope to be thankful for another bumper harvest.

The van is really on its last legs and in urgent need of replacement. The vehicle fund now stands at £4,903 - it would be lovely if we could reach our £6,000 target in time to get a new van on the road at the start of 2014.

The Community School remains at the absolute heart of CINDI(K) with children being enabled to get back into main stream school or move on to training as appropriate to their needs. The Ministry of Education has provided 35 new school desks and continues to fund one of the teachers. Eliz and Phyllis have been tackling a problem with unfairly loaded classes and although this is causing some heartache the issue is being resolved. Boyd, one of our most long-standing and loyal teachers, continues to work towards qualified teacher status but is finding it hard going as his CINDI(K) salary does not meet the expenses involved.

Frankie Murray from Northern Ireland has been spending time as a volunteer at the centre. He has been getting the children involved in sports – including getting goal posts put up and teaching games to the teachers and children. He spent two days out at the farm helping the women with their work and stayed out in Nkwazi with Octavia's family to experience life in a township to the full.

The bananas at the centre have had to be uprooted and destroyed because of a virus, it is hoped that once cleared, the land can be used for maize and soya.

Congratulations are due to Christopher Mwambwa a former CINDI(K) orphan who attended the community school. He has graduated as an electrical technician. Grade 12 students, Peter Tanga and Darius Mtonga passed their Grade 12 exams with flying colours. Well done them! Darius achieved five distinctions and three merits and Peter, who started out at the community school, five distinctions and two merits.

Ladder of Hope continues to work away in the back ground, ensuring that your donations find their way as quickly as possible to CINDI(K). Over the course of the past 9 months £3,000 has been transferred to CINDI(K) of which £1,245 was Gift Aid reclaimed – so well worth making sure your gift aid form is updated, the new style one is enclosed requiring full given names as well as surname. On-line banking is certainly helping to speed up transactions.

The Trustees continue to look for other sources of funding – if you think you can put us onto anything, please let us know. Peter Vasey completed the "Norwich 100" 100mls cycle race and raised £368 -thanks for this Peter – well done!

Bev Vasey has now set us up on e-bay so that if you wish you can donate a percentage of your sales money (or all of it...) to CINDI(K) we are on the e-bay drop-down menu of charities – follow the instructions to donate.

Philippa is working on some new gift cards – they will be up for sale very, very soon – so take a look on the website for the advert.

Website: The website is still up and running but updating the information seems to be a bit of a problem.

You should be aware that the **DOVE TRUST** which we were using for on-line donations has now been closed down. Details of how to donate are on the website, currently through cheques, transfers, direct debit and snail mail I'm afraid but this is a way of ensuring that all of the money you donate comes directly to us for the benefit of the orphans and vulnerable children in our care.

Life continues to move forward at a hectic pace for us all – it only seems like five minutes since our last trustees' meeting in May. We are due to meet up again at 1.30p.m. on Saturday 23rd November at St John's College, Durham courtesy of the Principal, Rev. Dr. David Wilkinson. If you would like to join us there or are interested in becoming a Trustee you will be most welcome.

In the mean time, go safely and God Bless you for your continued support.

Sue Brice

Chairman Ladder of Hope.