

KEEPING YOU IN THE
LOOP FOR LESS

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the noows

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO THE LIFE
OF OPERATION ORPHAN

Edition 1

Summer 2016

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Warmers

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Orphan continues to
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help the orphans of the
Ebola outbreak.



It's been a jam-packed start to the year. Our first ever expedition to Sierra Leone allowed us the privilege to be part of the grand opening ceremony for the first two houses at Heaven Homes. It was incredibly special to see these houses become homes to thirty of the children orphaned by Ebola (see centre pages).

Developments with Keep a Child Warm include a wonderful new partnership with Circle of Friends, a group of 100 Ukrainian volunteers who are adding value and desperately needed friendship to the orphans living in government-run institutions. We look forward to visiting later in the year to distribute the coats and clothing donated through Keep a Child Warm.



Sierra Leone & Ukraine



Winter Warmers

(Eastern & Central Europe) Keep a Child Warm



Keep a Child Warm has more schools and groups supporting each year. If you are one of these new coat collection points then a massive thank you to you. This small act of kindness makes a lasting impact.

This year's response for Keep a Child Warm has been overwhelming and will enable us to provide desperately needed warm coats, hats, scarves, blankets and gloves to orphans and impoverished children, particularly from war-torn Ukraine and Moldova.

The cost of running this project; picking up donated clothing from around the UK, packaging and transporting it to the various countries, is by far the most cost effective way of doing things. For as little as £8 we can provide a whole winter kit for a child in need.

As well as donations of second-hand items, we are grateful to receive brand new clothing from a number of UK companies. Huge thanks to Blue-Max Banner, Uniformality, Player Layer and Tiger Stores who have recently donated brand new items of clothing for orphans and needy children. Thanks to Connect Packaging who continue to provide boxes for shipping at cost price and donate hundreds of smaller boxes. This helps us massively and makes every pound we're given go even further!



SPONSOR OUR KEEP A CHILD SCHEME

**Can you pledge just
£5 a month?**

This will help us to fulfil a wide range of goals in the lives we are caring for by strengthening the care structure around them. That could be providing warm clothes and nappies for a tiny Syrian refugee baby or ensuring that a teenage AIDS orphan in Zimbabwe gets the counselling and support that they need.

For more information:
www.operation-orphan.org
Phone: 084321 63838
Local: 0115 896 9942

Girlguiding

It's been fantastic partnering with Girlguiding Nottinghamshire, having an opportunity to reach thousands of girls from within our own county with the message of Keep a Child. Each month, the girls have been set a unique challenge to complete, linked to the four Keep a Child strands. An exciting way to earn a Keep a Child badge!

Many groups got involved in our national Keep a Child Warm challenge in January. February's World Thinking Day challenge was a chance to get the message of Keep a Child across the globe through social media. March saw the girls compete in relay races with text books balanced carefully on their heads for Keep a Child Learning. Their final challenge for Keep a Child Safe is to design and build a shelter from recyclable materials.

One of the main strengths of this fabulous partnership is the opportunity for more people to find out about our work without the huge price tag attached to corporate advertising. Although our core running costs are taken care of, we think carefully about money we are spending and aim to avoid waste wherever possible.

Thanks to The Media Collective's CSR, this magazine has been designed at no cost to us. Their brilliant marketing, print and signage services are available at a sizeable discount to schools who have partnered with Operation Orphan. Email info@operation-orphan.org to benefit from this discount and we will gladly pass your information on.



"I really like how all the activities relate to the issues these children are facing. My favourite activity was Keep a Child Warm - where we had to wear as many clothes as possible. It was really fun and hilarious!" - Mia aged 13, 86th Nottingham Guides



Knitting Corner

(Ukraine) Keep a Child Warm

During a visit to an orphanage in Ukraine this March I was given a guided tour. The first thing I noticed on entering the first dormitory style bedroom was the brightly coloured knitted blanket, laid neatly over the bed. "That's MY bed" one of the young girls cheerfully claimed. I thought about how delighted she was to have something so many of us take for granted, something she called her own. I thought about the privilege of being able to show kindness to these children who don't experience

much of this in their lives. I thought about Loving Hands and the many other knitting groups who send regular parcels of beautifully knitted items for us to distribute.

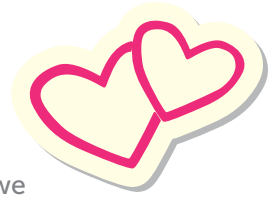
I love my job. I am passionate about helping these precious children and I am incredibly grateful to those of you who enable me to do this by donating your time, talents and treasure to the cause.



Because of the way we are funded **100% of your valuable contribution** will go directly towards 'changing lives for a brighter future'.

"We've found that partnership, especially with those who share your heart for orphaned children, is key. Operation Orphan has a parenting heart and demonstrate this consistently" Kippy (Founder of Heaven Homes)





Building Homes and Lives

This was the moment I'd been waiting for. Since the day we heard about these children orphaned by the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone and made a commitment to supporting them long term, I'd been desperate to meet them in person. This trip did not disappoint. It was everything I'd hoped and I can't wait to go back next year and see how the project has developed.

After a gruelling journey by taxi, three aeroplanes, a speed boat and final drive to Heaven Homes, we were more than ready to arrive and sleep. Our trip was varied; painting & decorating, playing football, dancing, teaching at the school, playing games and of course - the grand opening of the first two homes and seeing the children move in!



The chief, counsellor and other guests came to be part of this opening ceremony which was a really special event. They gave speeches of gratitude for the financial support and aid containers Operation Orphan sent last year and reminisced about the difficult time when these orphans were first discovered.

We've come a long way since then. Thanks to people who generously give to our Keep a Child sponsorship scheme, these children now have a safe place to live, access to education, regular meals and everything else they need. Living in a house with carpet tiles, colourful paint, a lounge and a dining suite is literally a dream come true for them. These are things most of their friends live without. Seeing how they took off their shoes before walking on the concrete floor made me see they will care for what they have and that they feel privileged to have it.

We've had some wonderful opportunities to celebrate this story through radio interviews as well as local and regional news and to let people know we still need financial donations to build homes for the other thirty orphans.

Two people who have gone above and beyond to fund the building of a home are Jan and Clive Roberts. Their story is quite inspirational as they decided to use their Golden Wedding Anniversary as a way to raise money for

the Ebola orphans. Along with family members, they took on sponsored challenges – losing pounds (lbs) to gain pounds (££££). They shared the need for homes with friends and family, near and far and managed to raise a whopping £10,000 for the Heaven Homes building fund.



Forget-Me-Notts



For the last 4 years we have been providing a gift at Christmas and a chocolate egg at Easter for over a thousand children in (and known to) the care system across the Midlands.



The aim is simple; to let these children know that they haven't been forgotten. This Easter we had more donors, more volunteers and were able to give to more children than ever before. With donations of both Easter eggs and money from Nottingham Knights Cheerleaders, Rothera Dowson, Keepmoat and the Legal Aid Agency we were able to give eggs to all the children who received something at Christmas and to four new places in some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the Midlands.

One of our newest contacts told us he'd given an egg to a teenage boy who said he'd not had one for over 4 years. This boy's dad had died last year and he'd had no contact from his mum since. An Easter egg might seem like a small gesture but to this lad and 1,768 other children, it has helped them to know that they do matter and they haven't been forgotten, remembering that their emotional health is vital.

“Success for Forget-Me-Notts is two-fold; being consistent with those who receive from us whilst expanding the project to help even more needy children.”

Jessica Meyers
(Project Co-ordinator)



“A trip to Africa teaches you many things such as not taking anything for granted. Things that they are amazed at, most of us would cast aside for not being perfect.”

Lucy Smith
(Assistant Head)
Chilwell School

Some Supportive Schools

Chilwell School have supported Operation Orphan for the past five years. Not only do they provide the space for our big pack, they also give us the students to help make this happen.

Each year, we look at the amount of bags and think we'll never manage it and each year, we pull together, work hard and make it happen. Karen Fyles and the staff have been incredible and go above and beyond to help us. We're extremely grateful for this on-going partnership.

Lucy Smith, Assistant Head of Chilwell School has been on a number of Global Expeditions. Projects she's visited include

Pencott School in Uganda, Amatelaz and Nzeve (Homework Centre and School for the Deaf) in Zimbabwe and this year, she was part of the first expedition to Heaven Homes in Sierra Leone.

We love to hear from schools and find out about the fantastic ways they are fundraising for us. St John the Baptist in Colwick have spent the Spring Term teaching Key Stage 2 about Operation Orphan,

focusing on the different ways we are helping orphans around the world. To finish their term with a bang – they ended with a FUNdraising day where they held class competitions for the longest loom band, a trail of copper coins around the school, sponsored silence and other fun ways of raising money to help Keep a Child warm, safe, healthy and learning.



Learning in Zimbabwe

Keep a Child Learning - Africa



An amazing project, based in Zimbabwe to help AIDS orphans, has seen a restructure this year. The wonderful Nev Borradaile founded the Amatelaz Homework Centre when she lived in Zimbabwe and has tangibly affected the lives of many orphaned children. Some of these little ones are now grown up and when Brad visited earlier this year, he met up with a few of them.

Senior (pictured) runs a successful tailoring business, making bespoke garments to order. He was inspired to learn to sew during his time at Amatelaz and was found to have an amazing talent. We later found out that his



late father was a tailor! Senior has found that he can use his talent to make a living for himself.

The project is now being managed by June Goss and Jacob Mashamba. Jacob who is the centre coordinator, continues to do an excellent job of supporting the students with their homework and revision for national exams. Jacob was himself orphaned as a child. This means that his role is not just a job to



him but that he empathises with these children on a personal level. Underpinning his educational support is genuine care and concern for the students' wellbeing.

Visit our website to see a video of Senior and some other Amatelaz boys.



**Join us on a
Global Expedition Team
to visit our projects
and see how
we are changing
lives for a
brighter future**



Layering Up

The Keep a Child Warm Challenge was certainly an exciting way to start the year. After the hype of Christmas, January can be a dull month – but not for us. This year marked the beginning of a new and exciting challenge. A fun way for people to engage with Operation Orphan, raising funds and awareness to help the Keep a Child Warm project. Twenty different schools and groups took part and thoroughly enjoyed the process.

Bishop Monkton CE School have been supporting us by holding annual coat collections since we first began. They got involved and through sponsorship raised £520 which is a big help.

“It was a very successful, popular event which the children really got behind and supported.”

Sally Cowling Head Teacher
- Bishop Monkton CE
Primary School,
Yorkshire.



"I like to help Operation Orphan because I am inspired by their enthusiasm and vision. I also feel confident that all goods and monies raised are used directly in projects."
Gail Lazenby



Meet the Team

UK volunteers for Keep a Child Warm

These lovely Yorkshire lasses, Jill & Gail, got involved in Operation Orphan when they joined a Global Expedition team to Moldova. Since being part of that Keep a Child Warm distribution, they have helped the charity in many different ways. Each year they organise coat collections and then travel to Nottingham where they've become an integral part of our packing week.

Jill Crampton and Gail Lazenby help us by spreading the word within their networks. They've organised fundraising events and even managed to convince their friends and family to fundraise too. We can't tell you enough how grateful we are to these ladies and our other ambassadors from around the UK who do so much to support us and help develop the work of Operation Orphan.

