

KEEPING YOU IN THE  
LOOP FOR LESS

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# the noows

KEEPING YOU  
CONNECTED TO THE  
LIFE OF OPERATION  
ORPHAN

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**Edition 3**  
Spring/Summer 2017

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can get involved in  
helping keep children  
safe, warm, healthy  
and learning.





# Zimbabwe

Keep a Child Learning

## Children of Hope

It is with deep sadness that we let you know Nancy Chulu, project coordinator for Children of Hope, sadly passed away from cancer at the end of 2016. Nancy has left an incredible legacy. She was the first person we worked with when Operation Orphan was forming. It was her love and commitment to the children that inspired us and our relationship which paved the way for the growth of the charity.

There are hundreds of children in Zimbabwe who have felt the positive impact of Nancy's love, wisdom and care and her absence will be deeply felt. We honour Nancy for all she was and her mothering heart to the Children of Hope. This project continues to provide education for over 30 children in Mutare and Honde Valley.



## Amatelaz

We are so encouraged with how this homework centre is helping our children. June, Jacob and our volunteers are working incredibly hard and their efforts have produced a measurable impact.

In Zimbabwe, children are awarded a class position at the end of each term and many of the children who attend Amatelaz have improved significantly over the last year. Prince has jumped from being 11th in his class to 4th, Jane has gone from 16th to 6th and Delia from 10th to 5th. These are just 3 among many children whose grades have improved as a direct result of the high quality input they receive at the homework centre.

Many children are unable to attend school because their guardians can't afford their school fees. The economic situation in Zimbabwe continues to worsen and the impact is profound

on the most vulnerable. Nev Borradaile (founder of Amatelaz) has been working at raising awareness and support from around the world. We are delighted to say four children have recently benefitted from long term support for school fees from a new Operation Orphan supporter in Australia. In addition to this and our loyal UK donors, we also receive support from someone in the United States who helps with the running costs of the homework centre.

The global response is so encouraging and the tangible evidence shows that this intervention is effective and essential. It is our hope to expand the project to operate a centre in the city so that the rest of the children Operation Orphan funds through school can have access to this provision.



## Would you like to join a Global Expedition team to Africa or Eastern Europe?

Please email [globalexpeditions@operation-orphan.org](mailto:globalexpeditions@operation-orphan.org) to register your interest and find out more.

Keep a Child warm, safe, healthy and learning by choosing to support our Keep a Child Sponsorship Scheme.



## Middle East

Our shipment of emergency aid was sent to help many internally displaced people in Northern Iraq. They were so delighted to receive this and as you can see from the pictures, this has now been distributed.

We loaded the 90 cubic meter lorry in Nottingham with help from some volunteers and it arrived on the 26th November. This was mostly brand new clothing donated by a number of UK sportswear and uniform manufacturers and some beautiful blankets made and donated by individuals across the UK.

We've been working with Samara's Aid Appeal who have great people in the high risk areas, helping whoever

they can. Together, we have identified 200 orphans in Aleppo who currently have no support. We are asking for financial contributions to enable us to send relief to these orphans and explore the most effective and culturally relevant way to support them moving forward.

It costs us £7500 to send a lorry full of relief to these children due to the high risk and fuel costs. Any help at all would be hugely appreciated.



## Knit a Kid a Blanket

Keep a Child Warm



We are so pleased that over half a million people saw the promotion video The Sun on Sunday kindly produced. These editors have helped us massively to get word out to people who had never before heard of Operation Orphan. Some real, honest journalism communicated a realistic picture of the need in Moldova. This was a fantastic celebration of both Keep a Child Warm and the Sun's Knit a Kid a Blanket Campaign and we are grateful for their support.

2000 large blankets were produced and distributed during the campaign, both locally and further afield. With a supply of these continuing to arrive at Operation Orphan, we are equipped to respond to emergencies as well as being able to help many in need right here on our doorstep.







## Europe

This winter we have been privileged to help thousands of orphans and vulnerable children, kitting them out for winter. In January, the news brought to our attention several cases of people in Europe who died because of the cold. It's a harsh reality but it's the reason we started our Keep a Child Warm project in the first place. This winter we have been more empowered than ever with support from 82 UK schools, groups, churches, small businesses and individuals who held local coat collections.

If you would like to become a collection point in June 2017 or have goods to donate, please email [info@operation-orphan.org](mailto:info@operation-orphan.org)

In the main, our aid is sent to Eastern & Central Europe. We send teams to Moldova and Ukraine to help with these distributions. Our trip to Ukraine took on a completely different purpose once we learned that the shipment was being held by customs to ensure it contained nothing untoward. Our team had a fantastic week spending time

with the children at various orphanages who have since received their warm essentials, and what's more, just in time for Christmas!



## Forget-Me-Notts

Forget-Me-Notts is our local, UK-based project which we are expanding to meet the specific needs of at risk children.

Each Christmas and Easter, we give a chocolate gift to vulnerable children in and around Nottinghamshire. Carers and beneficiaries have communicated to us that for many of these children, it's the only gift they receive. The primary purpose of this has been to send a regular message to these children, letting them know they are not forgotten. In addition we have provided baby boxes filled with essentials for heavily pregnant

women who are based at local refuges and/or low-income families.

Together with our contacts in social services, we have recently started to develop this project, providing at risk children with things they desperately need, such as warm clothing, bedding and other items. These requests come to us through referral forms from the social workers, so we can help meet their

specific needs, rather than giving what we think they need.

The feedback we've received shows this to be an empowering tool for the social workers to help on a practical level, something they are not always able to do.

Join our Forget-Me-Notts Facebook page if you would like to hear about exactly what's needed, real time.



# Uganda

## Pencott Valley Primary School

Keep a Child Learning



**“I’d love the children who come to Pencott to leave with an impact in their heart as well as their mind”. Philip, Director at Pencott Valley School, told us this on the first day of our most recent trip in February. He isn’t a push over by any means, but you can tell by the way the children interact with him that he cares for them.**

Pencott is looking very smart, with some new gates for added security and their new veranda. We helped to begin the building of the veranda in November 2015, since then it has been used daily by the children to shelter from the sun and rain, to sit together to eat their meals, for assemblies and other whole school activities. Philip introduced us to two children who are now in secondary education, whose lives have been transformed by the education they received at Pencott. One of these boys came from an incredibly poor family who

were struggling to provide food for him and his brothers and sisters let alone send them to school. Philip invited them to join the school. Julian was at the school for 5 years and made the most of it, getting distinction in his final exams. He was offered a scholarship enabling him to attend secondary school and again excelled. He is in his final year of secondary school

and wants to be a doctor. This is something that is very much within his grasp. Julian told us how grateful he was to the school for giving him this opportunity to make something



of his life and eventually to be able to help his family. When I asked him what he remembered about his time at Pencott he responded instantly,

**“I remember that they cared for me. They didn’t just teach me, they cared about me too”.**

We spent a wonderful week with the children currently attending Pencott. We played sports with them including a very boisterous game of football, and a much more subdued game of rounders! The loom bands were a huge hit and the children loved their letter writing lesson, replying to letters from children in the UK.

Our team also managed to paint the two freshly plastered classrooms, giving the whole place a much brighter feel.

As these children head into their new school year we look again at the best way of supporting the orphans who are attending the school.

The money provided by Operation Orphan each month goes towards the teachers’ salaries and the much needed meals for the children. If you would like to help us support these children please have a look at our website to find out how.



# Become an Ambassador



We are so grateful to the countless people who support Operation Orphan in some way. This ranges from people who support us monthly through our Keep a Child sponsorship scheme, to those who donate hand-made blankets and winter coats. Each volunteer plays a critical role in the life of the charity and we wouldn't be where we are today without this help.

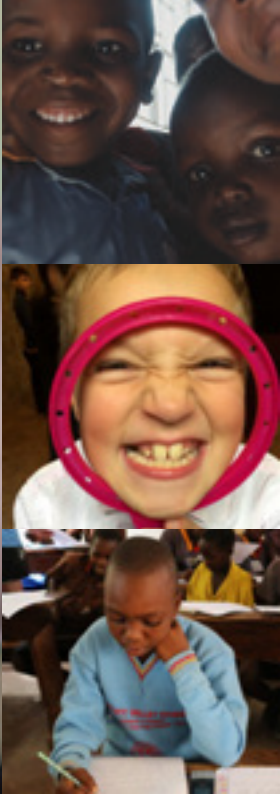
Over the years, we have developed some super relationships with people in various parts of the UK and even further afield. These people have helped us on a number of levels, for example; fundraising, representing us in schools and/or groups in their local areas, organising Keep a Child Warm collections and so much more. These individuals are our ambassadors.

As they work at raising the profile of Operation Orphan within their networks and helping us to raise much needed support, we aim to assist them where possible and celebrate their success.

If you would like to become an ambassador in your area, please let us know. Signing up you will be agreeing to;

1. Proactively expanding the awareness of Operation Orphan within your community and networks.
2. Keeping up-to-date with Operation Orphan's activity and impact.
3. Connecting with new people or groups in your area should opportunities arise.

We'd love to hear from you if you think this volunteer role would suit you.



## A Little Goes a Long Way

It's been over 2 years since we launched our sponsorship scheme, Keep a Child. This is not a clever marketing scheme. It's an honest way of letting our donors know exactly where their money is going and how it's making a difference. Each child we support benefits from at least one of the Keep a Child streams - safe, warm, healthy and learning. Many children experience help in all four areas.

Through this regular giving, we can guarantee our long term support to children who have lost everything and everyone. We all know how much it costs to raise a child of our own and how our support spans their dependant existence.

Thank you to our Keep a Child family who have chosen to support us regularly in this way. We currently have 56 individuals helping us to take a parental responsibility for these orphans and vulnerable children, keeping them warm, safe, healthy and learning.

If you would like to join the family, we'd love to hear from you.



### 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](http://www.operation-orphan.org)  
 Phone: 084321 63838  
 Local: 0115 896 9942







"Operation Orphan's tireless work in projects around the world, is truly humbling for us and we know that our fundraising efforts are making a real difference in children's lives." Cameron - Charity Secretary for Nottingham Knights Cheerleaders 2016-2017

## Meet the Team

UK volunteers for Forget-Me-Notts



Meet the Nottingham Knights Cheerleaders. This wonderful group of students are from Nottingham University. They were inspired by the Forget-Me-Notts project right at the beginning and have been involved ever since. Each year a new charity secretary is appointed by the club. We work closely together to deliver thousands of Easter eggs and selection boxes, at Easter and Christmas, sending a message to vulnerable children in the Nottinghamshire area that they have not been forgotten.

They provide us with an army of willing and 'cheerful' volunteers as well as taking on some fundraising challenges. They've sold doughnuts, run marathons, packed bags and more. These guys and girls are the backbone of our Forget-Me-Notts project.

We are so grateful for their ongoing support every year and wish them all the best in their various competitions coming up.



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