

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 6
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P.4

Update from Ghana

A fully funded Critical
Care Unit is up and
running.

P.6

Rubbish Science

Tackling environmental
issues and developing
scientific understanding
around the world.

P.9

Running in the
Community

A fun run at the
Robin Hood Half
Marathon.

Keep a Child Warm

This year's packing week felt even more like a community effort than ever before. For the seventh year running, Chilwell School Sixth Form gave us a week of their time to support our sorting and packing process. As well as some students from National Academy who joined us for a day, we were happy to have help from some of our charity ambassadors as well as some regular volunteers. This year we were simply blown away to see so many past Chilwell School students (now either working or at university) come back to help throughout the week. This speaks volumes and we are so thrilled to see these familiar faces year on year.

In 2017 we packed around a thousand coats (as well as many other warm items) for children in Moldova but this year we packed 1300 for specific children in Moldova alone. As well as the consignment for Moldova, we have also shipped containers of aid to help children in Syria, Hungary and Romania.

Before packing week, we had tonnes of help to prepare donations. 100 Year 9 students from Trent College came through our warehouse in relay during one week. 10 students each morning and a different 10 each afternoon - we got a lot done that week! Individuals and teams from local companies also came and volunteered for

a day or two. This was an overwhelming response to our call for volunteers and we are so grateful for the increased support we've seen over this past year.

The Global Expedition to Moldova is such a fantastic opportunity for us to get involved in giving these coats and warm items out to the children and seeing the gratitude on their faces makes it all so worthwhile.

If you would like to be part of the next distribution trip, please get in touch.



"This was one of the best weeks of my life!"

- Rob



Update from Ghana



A fully funded Critical Care Unit is up and running.

Ann & Terry mark a decade of the Nutrition Centre with an amazing donation from The Cherish Foundation, enabling the build of a vital Critical Care Unit. At the King's Village, severely malnourished babies who present with malaria, infections and dysentery first require medical intervention before their nutrition programme can be a success.

Thanks to this generous donation, work began straight away and the Critical Care Unit was up and running in no time. Now that the unit is fully functioning it's been continually full to the brim with babies requiring this kind of critical care.

The staff are doing a wonderful job of continually bringing babies back from the brink of death.

We often see desperate images on TV of children who are suffering but the photos we prefer to show you are those of children whose lives have been turned around by this brilliant intervention. Photos that show, thanks to the work at the Nutrition Centre, hundreds of babies who were dying but are now healthy and well.



How You Helped... Tasha

My name is Tasha, I am 17 years old and I am an only child. I was born with cerebral palsy and because of this, sadly my father left while I was a baby. My mother and grandparents look after me and do the best they can.

Over the years, as I have grown up and got heavier, my mum has struggled to lift me and this has caused damage to her back. Now that I'm over 16 I am unable to access any support from the government. I live in a rural village that has a beautiful view. When the Operation Orphan team come to visit, I felt so happy to see them. They care a lot about me and my mum too.



The Project

Through our Keep a Child Warm project we have been introduced to some fantastic social workers and local people in Moldova who care a great deal about their community. Tasha is one of the vulnerable children we have helped for the past two years. By making some essential improvements at her home we aim to make it easier for her mum to give the 24-hour care she requires, specifically reducing the negative impact on her back. This helps to ensure Tasha will be cared for longer term.

We've added an external access door to her bedroom and improved the bathroom to provide adequate washing facilities for Tasha. This year we provided a new double bed for both her mum and Tasha to share. This came with a brand new comfy mattress and it was wonderful to see their reaction when we visited in October.

We would like to thank you for being part of our Keep a Child Family. Your regular donations mean we have been able to help strengthen Tasha's care structure and create a safer future for her.

Thank you for your support.



Rubbish Science

You could be thinking we are implying science is rubbish. If not then why the name? What does this mean?

We could not be more excited to let you know that this is the name of our newest project. Using resources readily available to them, namely rubbish, children will be empowered to take their scientific learning to a whole new level. Neil Atkin, founder of Rubbish Science, has decades of experience in both physics and culture. He provides training workshops for teachers in schools worldwide that are revolutionising the teaching and learning of science.

One main focus of Operation Orphan is to Keep a Child Learning. This new project has the unique ability to motivate children of all economic backgrounds and create a level playing field. This makes it RELEVANT in all cultures and very exciting.

Get involved!

If you'd like to know more about Rubbish Science and/or find out how you can register for the training, visit our website or get in touch.

T: 0115 896 9942
neil@operation-orphan.org

"The disempowered have a powerful asset, their brains. Rubbish Science aims to develop children's scientific literacy to equip them better to forge their own paths in the world."

Neil Atkin



Bottle Garden



Neil Atkin



Core Team Update

Many of you may know Jess, our Operations Manager. She's been with us since the charity became registered and has done an incredible job of helping us to set things up. It's time for her to move into a very exciting new season as she welcomes the arrival of her beautiful baby.



Caitlin

We'd love you to meet Caitlin who will be replacing Jess for the next 13 months. She's hit the ground running and is doing a fabulous job. Thanks to Harper Recruitment for providing their recruitment services to us at no charge.



Rebecca

We're also pleased to have a wonderful Nottingham Trent University student with us for her sandwich year. Rebecca is assisting Rob with Forget-Me-Notts and Heather with Keep a Child Warm. We couldn't be happier to have her with us.



RUNNING IN THE COMMUNITY



We are so grateful to have had a group of 12 runners representing us in the Ikano Robin Hood Half Marathon in September. For some of the runners it was their first ever half marathon and although they found it a challenge, the thought of their fundraising making a significant difference to children in need kept spurring them on.

The fantastic thing is that 100% of the money they raised will be used to help the children in our projects.

This was such a great day with a brilliant atmosphere and a wonderful sense of comradery.

GET INVOLVED!

If you'd like to join us in running next year please get in touch by sending an email to info@operation-orphan.org



DR Congo

Our first chance to get 'boots on the ground' in DR Congo proved to be so worthwhile. Brad was on the first South African Airways flight into DR Congo since they stopped all air traffic months ago. Needless to say this attracted news coverage! Whilst he was there he met so many beautiful children who have endured such a tragic past. We are thankful that these kids now have a home and a safe place in our Keep a Child family.

In a country where basic survival is incredibly hard, the team at Hebron Home are setting an example of how to love, support and value the life of an orphan.

It was encouraging to see how the money donated through Operation Orphan is making a significant and efficient impact. They are also wisely generating sustainable sources of income and food from within the country.

Donald and Marie (project coordinators) took early retirement to go to Lubumbashi and oversee the project full time. As soon as they arrived Donald began cultivating the 40 acre farm. After four months they have already harvested a variety of produce. Some of the produce is sold to raise funds for the project and the rest used to feed the children. We are investing in 2 water tanks and piping to improve irrigation capacity to enable crops to grow successfully all year round.

Here's the lorry we exported a couple of years ago. It's regularly on its way to Lubumbashi from the Zambian border with a load of cargo. This business generates a good income.

We are so proud of Donald, Marie and the team at Hebron Homes for the amazing work they are doing. These guys are literally 'changing lives for a brighter future'.





Forget
Me-Notts

We are thrilled to let you know we have completed lots of referrals through our Forget-Me-Notts project.

More than 200 vulnerable children have received practical help in the form of beds, bedding, clothing, carpets or whatever would help to make the biggest difference.



Alternative Gifts

Consider giving a gift that keeps on giving...

Need to give a gift? We now have some fantastic alternative gifts available for a range of budgets, from £5 to £25. Purchase one voucher or any combination of the four vouchers on offer – there's one for each of our Keep a Child areas.

These vouchers are presented in a gift wallet so the person you are giving it to will enjoy finding out how they have helped a child in one of our amazing projects.



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