

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 7
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Supporting thousands
of vulnerable children
around the world.

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Keep a Child Warm

In the last 6 years, we have clothed 9991 children in Moldova, Hungary and Ukraine. These are children we know by name and have had the privilege of giving a winter coat, jumper, blanket, hat, scarf and a pair of gloves to each one. The capacity at Motorpoint Arena in Nottingham is 10,000! This has really helped us to appreciate the scale at which we are working, which is only possible thanks to you!

In addition to this number, we have sent truckloads of gorgeous clothing to Syria, Sierra Leone, Congo and to various impoverished communities in eastern and central Europe. These shipments contain brand new sportswear from Player Layer and SWI as well as new uniform from Banner, a company whose support we have appreciated for the past 6 years.

We are grateful to every school and every community group or workplace who have helped us by collecting coats or by raising financial support to help us ship these items to get them into the hands of those who need them most – thank you!



It's taken a while to get this recent Noows into your hands. A lot has been happening in the life of the charity and we are excited to share some stories with you here. For more information on any of our projects, please take a look at our fabulous, brand new

website which has been created for us free of charge by the Media Collective. Donations like these make it possible for us to reassure our readers that when we say 100% of your donation is used to help the children – we REALLY mean it!

Anniversary BALL

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF OPERATION ORPHAN

We'd love for you to come and celebrate with us at the exquisite Walled Garden, Beeston Fields for our special Black Tie Event Evening on Thursday 11th June 2020

£55 per head includes a welcome drink, 3 course dinner and entertainment.

To purchase your tickets or table please email info@operation-orphan.org or call 01158969942

Crisis Response

In the toughest of conditions, on the coldest weekend this year, our newest recruits were put through their paces!

Taking people into crisis situations is no laughing matter. It's definitely not for the faint hearted. That's why our team selection course is serious business. Alex (UKISAR) advises our selectors as the team is challenged beyond their comfort zone to see how they will react under pressure. We are very happy to say that each of the people on our latest selection were offered a place on the team.



How You Helped... Rupert

My name is Rupert and I am from Chimanimani, Zimbabwe.

This year something terrible happened in my home and my parents were killed. There was a cyclone, called Idai, which came and destroyed our village. The whole area was ruined and too many people lost their lives. I survived the storm but I was badly hurt and taken to the hospital where they performed an emergency operation on my eye. Because the operation wasn't done well, they said I would lose my sight. But thanks to kind people who have helped to pay for my medical bill, I was able to have more operations to save my eye.

Now my five brothers and sisters live with me at my aunty's home and I'm happy that we can all still go to school - thanks to the support from Operation Orphan.



The Project

Keep a Child Safe is all about finding children when they are most vulnerable and ensuring their safety. During a natural disaster where there has been mass loss of life and the government has called for international help, our Crisis Response Team will deploy. Our mandate is two-fold, to find children who have been orphaned by the crisis and to **KEEP THEM SAFE.**

Rupert and his siblings are now part of our Keep a Child family and together we are helping to keep them warm, safe, healthy and learning. Thank you for your ongoing support which makes it possible to care for him and many others in a similar situation.

Over the past 15 years we have worked with Never Femayi to help hundreds of

children who have been orphaned by AIDS. Never recently relocated to Chimanimani so when the cyclone hit nearby, he was first on hand to help as many people as he possibly could. The government has now recognised Never as a national hero and formally presented him with a presidential Humanitarian Award.

Hi, my name is Kezia



I'm 25 and a paediatric nurse in A&E in Nottingham.

Shortly after joining the Crisis Response Team I was deployed to Zimbabwe as part of our first (whole team) crisis response mission. Myself, along with two doctors and our team leader (Brad) flew to Zimbabwe at the end of March, shortly after the country was hit by the devastating Cyclone Idai. I spent six life changing days there and the whole experience is hard to put into words.

It was incredible to see a country who have so little, and were so unprepared for a disaster of this scale, come together the way they did and do the best they could with what they had. Whilst we were there, we attended the local emergency council meetings where volunteers and council members met each morning and night to strategise the next stages of help and response.

When we arrived to offer our assistance, there could not have been more gratitude. The Zimbabwean people were so thankful for our supplies, our skills and our support.

After being there a few days and conducting health checks on all the children in the temporary camps (for those who had lost their homes due to the cyclone), we handed out over 100 blankets and family sized water filters. We were able to give shelter to eight families and we found 15 children who had been orphaned by the crisis. We were able to connect them to the local social workers and provide ongoing support and funding to keep them in school and help to keep them safe.

One thing we realised was that none of these things made the biggest impact. The biggest impact we had, and what the local people were most grateful for, was our presence.

Our presence in Zimbabwe reminded them that they were not alone. It reminded them that the world had

seen and the world was watching. That they were not forgotten and that we were standing with them as a country and as individuals. Us being there gave them hope and that was invaluable.

As much as I gave everything I had during our short stay in Zimbabwe and tried to find any way to help, Zimbabwe gave so much to me. I will never forget my experience and I will never forget those I had the privilege to encounter.



Find us online!

Follow us to get the latest updates on our projects and find new ways you can get involved!



Coat Collections!



Coat collections are a big way of helping out – so if you'd like to join us in our ambition to Keep a Child Warm, please get in touch to find out more.



A Family Affair

The beginning of this year marked a special time for Ann and Terry Carpenter (founders of the Nutrition Centre in Ghana). Their dream became a reality when they had the privilege of taking their youngest daughter, her husband and their two children to visit the project they started over ten years ago.

This trip was significant in so many ways. It marked the official ten-year anniversary of the project with a TV crew and local chiefs joining in the celebrations. Among the many guests stood ten of the children who had been inpatients when the centre first began. The fathers of four of these children had intended to take them to the bush to be killed and yet here they were, standing tall, in good health and at school. Norma, the

nutritional officer gave a wonderful speech, confirming that more than 5000 children have been saved from the brink of death since the Nutrition Centre began ten years ago.



Sierra Leone



Our team had a FANTASTIC time visiting the children in Sierra Leone.

Not only did they spend quality time with the children, learning new games and teaching new games, they also imparted something so valuable – a new skill. Cyrilyn and Kirsty are professional silversmiths here in the UK and went to Heaven Homes, bags packed with tools and materials, to teach the children how to create their own jewellery using precious metal.

Each of the older children had a go at making a ring, but a few of those showing promise in this area had some intense tuition. They even made items to sell and will use their profits with

their own business start-up. This was a great experience for the children.

The doctor on our team carried out health checks with each of the children and identified some things to follow up on. Since the team's visit they have each had their eyes tested and a few of the children require further checks. There have been some positive changes at the homes including a new social worker who is on hand to offer pastoral support.

There is some sad news too as Kadija, the nursery teacher, suddenly passed away. Our thoughts are with all the staff and students of Heaven Homes School and Kadija's family as they grieve.





Forget Me-Notts Operation Orphan

As you may already know, Forget-Me-Notts (our UK project) responds to the practical needs of vulnerable children in and known to the care system. Items donated depend on the specific needs identified by case workers, but can range from beds and household furniture to rugs and pots and pans.

Forget-Me-Notts empowers social workers and support agencies to bring practical support to at-risk children by providing exactly what they need. Members of the public help us to meet these needs by either kindly donating the requested items, donating money, or purchasing any of the requested items from the online wish list. Our team then personally delivers and builds these items in the children's homes.

Our main focus this year has been tackling bed poverty. This year so far, over a hundred children in our local area have gone from sleeping on the floor or on dirty, broken mattresses, to having their very own comfy bed.

At the beginning of this year, generous local business CP Walker & Son committed to covering the core running costs of the Forget-Me-Notts project long-term, meaning our amazing team can now focus all their efforts on engaging local people to help the vulnerable children and families in the East Midlands.

This new partnership came about during a chance meeting at the Property Face 2 Face networking event last November.



After Brad made his presentation I knew immediately that we had to help in any way we could. I offered our support there and then, without any hesitation, and we've been working closely on the project ever since. As a Nottingham based business we are proud to offer our long-term help to Forget-me-Notts.

Together we want to help as many local kids as possible, but we'd also like to help you expand this across the whole of the East Midlands. With our national presence we'd also like to partner with other like-minded businesses to help more vulnerable kids across the UK.

Sean Neal, Partner



So far in 2019* we have provided:



Helping 198 children. But there's always more we can do.

It's estimated that 36,580 children are living in poverty in Nottinghamshire, with 4,001 of those children living without beds.

If your company would like to partner with Operation Orphan to help vulnerable children in your own local area, we would love to hear from you. Please email brad@operation-orphan.org

*Figures accurate as of August 2019

Global Expeditions



If you'd like to join one of our Global Expedition Teams, we'd love to hear from you. From distributing coats in Moldova to playing educational games with children in

Sierra Leone, we have opportunities for you to travel with purpose. Give us a call or visit our website and search Global Expeditions.



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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