

KEEPING YOU IN THE
LOOP FOR LESS

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KEEPING YOU CONNECTED
TO THE LIFE OF
OPERATION ORPHAN

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Edition 8
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P.4

How you helped

How your regular
giving is helping.

P.6

Forget-Me-Notts

Understanding bed
poverty.

P.9

Crisis Response

An update from
Zimbabwe.

Responding in Crisis!

We are happy to welcome the newest recruits to our Crisis Response Team. The beginning of this year saw our selection course put our potential new members (and one existing member) through their paces. Following this gruelling experience, we are pleased to welcome the following individuals to our talented team of volunteer experts.



Our aim is to be equipped to deploy to the next international crisis which calls for assistance. The primary objective is to find children who have been orphaned and to keep them safe. During the crisis, our team of professionals offer medical assistance and practical help. Distribution of aid (such as donated water filters and blankets) is also part of our response.

Identify - Make safe - Keep Safe

If you would like to help empower our team to respond please make a donation today via our website.



How You Helped... Anna

Hi, my name is Anna and I'm 8 years old now.

My mum and dad are not alive so I live with my gran in Jamaica. Unfortunately, a few years ago she was involved in a shooting so she is disabled because of that. She can't get around much so I help her with all the daily chores.

When I met Veronica I was not at school. My gran and I slept in an old goat shed and I was dreaming about going to school. Now Operation Orphan have helped me I am at school and I have clothes to wear and even a school uniform. I feel so smart when I go to school with my shoes and bag.

This week I am so happy because I have a new bed.



The Project

Keep a Child Safe is focused on finding children when they are vulnerable and ensuring their safety.

Veronica & Dahl moved to Jamaica from Nottingham a few years ago. When they met Anna, her living conditions were unthinkable and she only owned the dirty clothes she was wearing. Our priority was to begin supporting her by enrolling her into school and purchasing new clothing and underwear for her. This provided stability and connected Anna to her community so she was no longer isolated. Veronica went shopping right away and bought some hygiene products, school supplies and a uniform and instantly we saw a positive change as Anna developed a sense of pride in herself.

Anna and her gran have now moved into a permanent concrete structure which they can call their home. It's safer in stormy weather and has greatly improved their living conditions. We've purchased a bed for them both so they can get a good night's sleep. Anna is attending school and we are keeping a close eye on her situation so that we can support her as and when we see the need arise.

"She was so happy and proud of her bed that she couldn't stop smiling" Veronica – Project Coordinator

RUNNERS WANTED!



If you like to run and you enjoy adventure - you'd love to be part of our Hope Alive Tour.

10 runners take on the challenge to run 390 miles over 4 days by running in relay and working as a TEAM.

More information about this and the application form can be found on our website. Please feel free to give us a call if you have any questions, we would love to hear from you.

Now taking applications for April & October 2021

IT'S BEEN AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY I WILL LOOK BACK ON. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SUPER KIND IN THEIR GIVING. BY FAR THE BEST BIT ABOUT THE MARATHON ITSELF WAS DEFINITELY THE CROWDS! THEY KEEP ME GOING
JAMES



Building Beds Here, There & Everywhere!

Over the past couple of years, we have become acutely aware of the growing need right here on our doorstep. And this need isn't limited to our local area.

Bed poverty. What does that mean?

We all know how we feel when we don't sleep well and many of us will have experienced how children behave when they don't get enough sleep. Research shows us that a good night's sleep helps improve a child's attitude and behaviour, which in turn has a positive effect on their learning.

While a growing number of UK children sleep on the floor or on poor quality mattresses (evidenced in the referrals we receive every week) over eight million used and unwanted new mattresses are sent to landfill each year in the UK alone. We are so grateful to Allen and Ben from TexTek Ltd for partnering with us to help us address this national crisis.

TexTek has developed a recycling process that will see over one million mattresses kept out of landfill each year, and are now donating the new, unwanted mattresses they receive to Forget-Me-Notts. It is truly inspiring to see what is being achieved by this innovative company and a privilege to play our part in reducing the negative impact unwanted mattresses have on the environment.

Through our Forget-Me-Notts project we are distributing new mattresses, previously destined for landfill, to the most vulnerable children throughout the UK.



Get Involved!

If you would like to be part of growing the reach of this initiative by helping us open more Forget-Me-Notts hubs across the UK, please get in touch. The more of us there are working together, the quicker we can help address this unseen, yet life changing, crisis.



Specialist Support



During the current Covid-19 pandemic, we have been responding both locally and internationally through our projects. We are sending extra financial support to our international projects, covering the essential cost of salaries as well as enabling them to purchase PPE and test kits, distribute food parcels and provide mosquito nets.

In the UK we have merged our Crisis Response Team with Forget-Me-Notts to enable our essential work to continue safely without any fear of cross-contamination.

Our offer of assistance was accepted by Derbyshire County Council and in partnership with the Heads of Children's Services of Amber Valley and Erewash, we have continued supporting social services with targeted emergency support to the most vulnerable families. The team has the capability and experience to safely enter the homes of the families. During lockdown we have been able to continue helping by installing beds, washing machines and cots and providing kitchen essentials, Moses baskets and many other needed items.

Throughout April, we were able to purchase more than 70 essential items (from people all over the UK), thanks to the response to our social media posts. These are being distributed and families

receiving these items are so grateful for the support.

We have also received some generous grants. In addition to the website shop, these have empowered us to respond quickly to the referrals we receive. In the coming weeks we are opening a new hub in the North West. Through this hub we will be supporting vulnerable children on the Fylde Coast. More about this soon.



Building Safety



As you will probably remember, in March 2019 our Crisis Response Team deployed to Zimbabwe to assist in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai. Their main objective was to identify children who had been orphaned by the storm and to keep these children safe.



As a charity, our objective isn't short term care alone. Once we find orphaned children, we take financial responsibility for things like their primary and secondary education and look out for their care long term. We consider their community to be a huge part of their care structure and look at ways we can offer support to strengthen this if needed.

During the storm, so much of the community's infrastructure had been ruined. One concern was the fence around the school, which was completely destroyed by the large boulders and flooding. This created a safety breach and intoxicated adults were seen regularly walking straight through the school grounds. Around 500 school children were at potential risk and we felt this needed to be addressed urgently.

Thanks to our incredible donors and a trustworthy local contractor who kindly carried out the work at a discounted rate, we were able to re-build the perimeter fence. A quarter of this funding was secured from within Zimbabwe and the rest from a generous donor in the UK.

850 meters of fencing is now in place and we are so grateful to see how everyone pulled together to help with this. Every penny donated has been used to build this fence, ensuring 100% impact!

Makeover in Moldova

DIY SOS is a popular hit on our TV screens. We are happy to say we've been doing a fair amount of this ourselves behind the scenes, helping local families in the UK and also further afield.

One particular family who benefited from a house renovation was on the brink of being separated due to their unhygienic and unsuitable living conditions. The children had been placed on the watch list by the social services - they could see that the father cared for his children deeply, but his current circumstances were out of his control.

After some preliminary assessments, it was clear that this dad cared and was willing to get his own hands dirty to prove it. Once we had established this, we provided the practical support he needed to improve his home and create a beautiful, safe environment for his family.

When our team visited the Moldovan home they helped to install brand new beds and mattresses in these now clean, freshly plastered bedrooms. A beautiful kitchen, donated by Nottingham-based kitchen company Ideas, was also fitted by a local contractor, giving the family a space they can feel proud of.

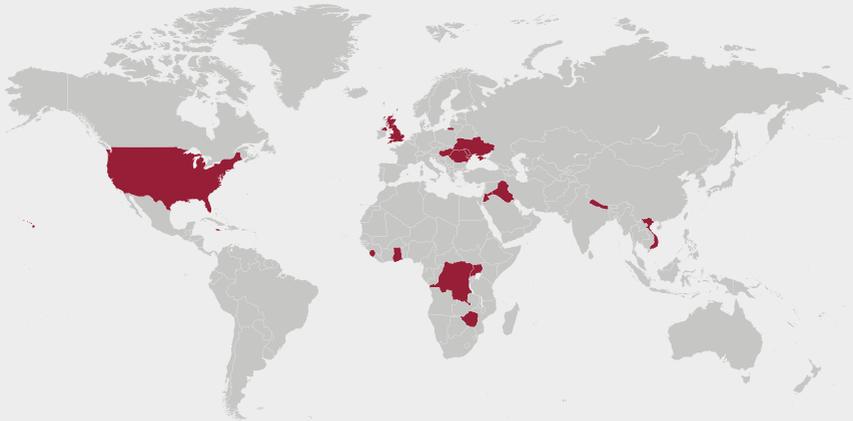
Meanwhile, in Nottingham our Forget-Me-Notts team have been carrying out similar projects to help families who are desperately in need of our support. We are always looking for willing volunteers to help with these so please get in touch if you are good at DIY and would like to help with painting & decorating for a day.

If you are in this trade and you'd like to volunteer some time to help, please email forget-me-notts@operation-orphan.org as we would love to hear from you.





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 the Get Involved section of our website.



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