

# CARING AND SHARING (EAST SUSSEX) NEWSLETTER 2016

'Live more simply that others may simply live'



Casa Guatemala

This newsletter is free. Please take it home and read about our projects.

www.caringandsharingeastsussex.org.uk

# What is Caring and Sharing?

The Caring and Sharing scheme was started in Eastbourne in 1982. It was based on two ideas: one that by making a small sacrifice members can turn away from the material values of the western world; the other that they can share their comparative wealth by sending the savings from this small sacrifice to projects in poorer countries which help to provide the basic needs of life. The sacrifice is not expected to be a major one. It is in its regularity that it grows in value. A digestive biscuit costs only a few pence, but 5p a day amounts to more than £18 a year, and such sums given regularly help us to send about £70,000 a year to our projects.

#### CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

We appear to be entering a new dark age. As we view events at home and abroad, matters seems to be spiralling out of control. Climate change has brought catastrophic flooding to parts of UK and elsewhere while other regions suffer severe drought, imperilling life itself. Christians in the Middle East are victims of brutality and murderous assault. Millions have fled Syria due to the protracted conflict destroying their communities. Refugees flood into Europe in the desperate hope of a better life. Governments and agencies seem powerless to manage this chaos, whether it be environmental, political or religious in origin.

One action we can take is to persist in doing good. We can contribute to those creative activities that sustain humanity in this cosmic struggle between good and evil, light and darkness. Key to the effectiveness of Caring and Sharing is the faithfulness with which you have contributed donations year after year. The parable of the mustard seed, of growth from small beginnings, is enacted each time one of you donates a sum that is often the cash equivalent of "going without" something. Faithfulness and mindfulness have raised £2.75 million to date. We drip-feed your money into our 15 projects which sustains the creative and sacrificial work of God's kingdom. Thank you for your gifts and the prayers with which they are offered.

If you live in East Sussex and would like a speaker from Caring and Sharing to occupy your Church pulpit or attend a Parish group, please ask. You will note on the back cover of this issue details of the two Eucharists arranged for 2016. We would rejoice to see large attendances at both.

Finally, I express gratitude to Julia Maling, our Projects Officer, to Richard Hughes, Treasurer and the committee for managing our Charity with such enthusiasm and devotion. Thanks also to the many parish representatives who are vital cogs in the Scheme ensuring with all of you who Care and Share, that we overcome darkness with light, and counter evil with charity.

Hugh Moseley

#### From our Patron CHALLENGES

I sometimes wonder if the word 'Challenge' isn't overworked today? Someone overweight is called 'circumferentially challenged'. I heard a local resident saying they were 'challenged' to find a parking spot in the town centre on Friday morning. The Government says there are 'challenges' with the NHS. In the parish we say we are 'challenged' to meet our Parish Share/Quota and/or 'challenged' to refine our Strategy. I am not convinced the word 'challenge' is the one that first springs to my mind in all these cases.......

Did Jesus see things as a 'challenge'? I wonder if he would view the cases I have cited as challenges? Having a sinless personality and being totally in tune with His Father, the Lord did not need the kind of artifice we look for or the need to take refuge in clichés. He simply got on with the tasks in hand of working for the world's salvation, as He does in the Kingdom of Heaven to bring everything on earth to fulfilment. You see Jesus had the perfect balance of activity and stillness and He works in us to bring us more of His harmony.

But it still has to be said, that Jesus *does* challenge us: to pray every day, to listen to His word in Sacred Scripture, and to see Him in others, and to give of ourselves, and to try new things, and to care, especially for the poor and refugees fleeing war and persecution and those trafficked and kidnapped and tricked by false promises of a better life and a good job. Each one of us knows how easy it is to shut out from our minds such people, but we cannot, for as St. Peter tells us in his first letter, we are all migrants here on earth, we are all 'aliens and exiles'. So, let us rise to the very real challenge to shake off negative and tired attitudes and live the new life in the Spirit of Faith, Hope and Love.

With my prayer and thanks for all you do to bring Hope to those you support with your projects.

#### **AFRICAN PROJECTS**

## THE STEVE WILLIS MEMORIAL FUND, UGANDA

As reported in August, three more boreholes were constructed in the Kiryandongo District bringing the total to 17!

The first was in Kikonge Village with more than 300 inhabitants but a 3 km distance to the nearest clean water source, which necessitated a one hour walk, 1 hour queuing and 2 hours walking back with a 20 litre jerry can.

The second was at Cluster E Settlement in the huge Panyadoli refugee camp of some 3,325 people, managed by UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees). It is located in a dry valley and inhabitants had to walk long distances in search of water.

And the third was at St Mary's Primary School Bimukema, which has 340 pupils, many of whom have been displaced due to the conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army. There was one latrine for pupils and teachers. Water had to be collected from a swamp at a distance of 1km. Not only did it cause disease, but collecting the water encroached on classroom time.



Borehole at St Mary's Primary School

Sarah Mendelsohn, the Executive Director of The Water Trust, wrote in her report to our daughter, Debbie, "Every time I take a moment and type these words or think about what you've done, I'm blown away. It is truly honourable and amazing what you have created in honour of Steve ... it's inspirational."

The Water Trust acknowledges that this could only be achieved through your support of Caring and Sharing and we feel thankful that much good is coming out of such personal tragedy.

Ann and Malcolm Bates

redchillihideaway.com/steve-willis-memorial-fund/watertrust.org

#### PENSIONS FOR CLERGY, RWANDA

Thirty of the retired pastors and widows met in their own Dioceses last October to share news and see old friends. They are all so thankful and encouraged for being remembered; the pension most frequently helps with medicines and school fees for dependants, then house repairs and daily needs.

Pastor Andre Nyirinkwaya, 88 years old, did not have the strength to make the Kigeme Diocese meeting, so a special visit was made to him. His mud house is very old and sits in a solitary compound on top of a hill at Rugote about 10 kms from Kigeme. The local authorities would normally require him to move to a village with access to utilities, but allow him to stay because of his old age. Very wisely years ago he planted tree nurseries and brought many small trees to his house, so now he has firewood.



Pastor Andre Nyirinkwaya & Joice

In September he was sick and went to hospital with anaemia and now back at home he is unable to walk long distances. Joice, his wife, is well at 78 years old.

He sent his thanks to the well-wishers for their help; he reported that he likes going to church for prayer, is busy with a daughter church and the Christians regularly visit him to do some small work at his compound. He has five children, but recently a son and wife died, leaving seven children, three of whom now live with him.

Tony Isaac www.lbmt.org.uk

## SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

The children at Buguruni School for the Deaf in Dar es Salaam are always indomitably cheerful and the school is always full of the sound of laughter. One of the joys of working with the children is that they are not aware of the things that they don't have – things which we might take for granted. A good and regular supply of water is one of those things.

During 2015 much of the time, effort and money of Tanzanear have gone into upgrading the infrastructure at the school in readiness for the building of a new audiology centre there. The generous support of Caring & Sharing East Sussex has this year been channelled into the water project which has seen new pipework, new washrooms and stronger fixtures and fittings being installed at the school. The work continues to be done but will be complete by the spring of 2016 which will be a blessing for everyone.



Buguruni School is a primary school and home to some 275 deaf children about half of whom board there. Our work supports them both in and out of the classroom as we seek to give them better opportunities in life either by moving on to secondary education or by giving them vocational training to prepare them for the workplace.

Through our work we hope that the children at Buguruni will, like us, one day be able to take for granted some of the basic necessities of life and that water will never be in short supply.

Yasin from Nursery (on the left) learning to smile

Judith Roberts

www.tanzanear.org

## **BOLGATANGA, GHANA**

Poverty and food insecurity still have a firm grip on rural areas of Northern Ghana, where six out of ten people are poor, compared to just two out of ten in the southern section.

Our work this year has focused mainly on providing food relief and handouts to the many poor and other vulnerable groups in emergencies and in need, especially for those of them living with disabilities. We have also been able to continue in our ministry to the poor and needy in the provision of treated bed nets, learning materials and fees for deprived school children.

For many years, I have also supported women's groups and partner organizations in their work with rural women, to increase their access to productive resources and their productive capacities These women have often worked very hard to sustain their families while at the same time coping with diseases such as malaria, which still debilitates entire families during the rainy season.

In August this year, I met with some of these old support groups and was very encouraged by their resilience, ingenuity and the tremendous progress they had made over the years, and I have promised to support their new groups/members in the coming year.



Notwithstanding these little wins and progress that I have witnessed in as many years, poverty remains a recurring phenomenon in Northern Ghana and with no end in sight. I was recently reminded that poverty is never pleasant and whoever believes there is something noble about being poor does not fully understand the reality that millions of people are forced to live.

## FISTULA HOSPITAL, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

On the 10th of October, 22 remarkable young women graduated from the Hamlin College of Midwives with a Bachelor of Science degree in Midwifery. The day was hot and sunny, and there was a palpable feeling of joy among the assembled dignitaries, families, staff and students. The ceremony was held in a marquee in the College grounds and began with a colourful procession as the graduates walked down from the College, accompanied by current students.



The degree lasts four all years but Hamlin students also commit to for another four work in rural health vears centres. Here they serve the local community but also share their advanced skills with existina government trained midwives.

Dean of the College, Zelalem Belete, congratulated his students:

"Soon you will begin your work improving maternal healthcare in the rural community where the magnitude of the problem is significant. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours and assure you that the Hamlin College of Midwives will stand beside you."

He went on to point out that one of the graduates had achieved "the highest record in the history of the College" managing 163 deliveries during her four years of study. After they were presented with their degrees, the new midwives took a solemn oath while holding a lit candle, vowing to uphold the proud traditions of the midwifery profession.

This is the fifth class to graduate from the College and brings the total number of Hamlin midwives working in rural Ethiopia to 80. The number of institutional deliveries by our midwives now stands at more than 22,500.

Reproduced from Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia (Australia) Summer Newsletter 2015 hamlin.org.au www.hamlinfistulauk.org hamlinfistula.org

## **SOUTH AMERICAN PROJECTS**

#### MY FATHER'S HOUSE, OLINDA, BRAZIL

Greetings from the North East of Brazil. In 2016 Rio de Janeiro will host the Olympics and much will be on the news. However we are situated 3,000 miles to the North in a very different world, where severe droughts and water rationing are the norm.

The demand for new outreaches continues to involve *My Father's House*. This year we have been able to expand activities at the farm opening up a recuperation centre for drug users, especially "crack" which is the poor man's heroin. The use of drugs is becoming an enormous problem amongst the poor here in Brazil and reaching out to ever younger boys. As well as the use of the drug, many become victims of the traffickers and lives are put at risk. This has led to several of the boys who have been admitted to our full time care centre coming to escape from death threats in their local communities.



The age of some of the boys at our full time care home seems to be dropping as the demand for the younger ones increases. At the moment we have two five-year-olds who have been abandoned by their families

Over at church we are working hard to complete our youth drop in centre which should open early in 2016.

We are also working hard to raise more of our funds locally here in Brazil, with all the usual local church fund raising activities (jumble sales etc.). However this is never easy, as the church itself is poor, being situated beside the local rubbish tip. So once again we express our most grateful thanks to all carers and sharers, without whose constant faithfulness we would not be "Partners in the Gospel"

Blessings

Rev. Ian Meldrum www.olindamission.no-ip.co.uk

## CASA GUATEMALA, GUATEMALA CITY

It has been my first year leading this wonderful organization. I am incredibly proud of the work that we do and the impact that we have on the lives of children we care for and their families. I am proud of our amazing staff and their dedication to our cause, and of our volunteers who come from around the world to give their hard work, time and love. And of course I am so very proud of our kids and how they learn and grow!

Our new website is up and running. We are very pleased with the new look and feel of the site and we think that you will find it much easier to navigate and access!

At the beginning of November, we were very proud to see our kindergarten and grade six classes successfully graduate! We had 13 graduates in our grade six class and we are happy to report that 4 of them have received scholarships to continue their studies and the other 9 have arranged to continue their studies at local high schools in Fronteras thanks to their parents. It won't be easy, but all of them are incredibly driven and focused. We were happy to see our sixth graders enjoying a trip to Tikal as a reward for all their hard work throughout the year. Not only did they all do a great job in their classes, but they also took charge of the school shop to sell snacks during recess where they learned the important aspects of running a business.



Our pre-kinder class saw 23 graduates moving on to the first grade where they will begin a new level of learning!

We are now finished with our school year and are well into our summer school program. We need all the help we can get, to ensure that we will have the funds to take us into 2016 and ensure that it is our most successful year yet.

Heather Graham

www.casa-guatemala.org

## NURSERIES OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER AND HOLY TRINITY, LIMA, PERU

Our schools, with an inclusive heart, give children with different abilities a place to aspire and fully develop, giving the opportunity to change the lives of themselves and their families, encompassed by the word of God.

It has been a year in which we have been victims of robbery and extortion, backed by the high level of violence that exists in the areas where both our nurseries are located. Families are also being hurt by loneliness, neglect and various vices, and we strive for excellence in our work to help

the most vulnerable children.



Rodrigo, 4 years old, enrolled in Christ the Redeemer, the last of five children. They lost their mother, and their father works occasionally and often turns to alcohol. For Rodrigo it is an adventure to go to the garden and sing every Monday with Pastor Anderson, who gives biblical teaching to all the children. The child was worried and said "when classes end it is very nice to be with my friends that I feel love me and care for me".

Lucia five and his brother Matias 9 years both study in Holy Trinity. Their father abandoned them four years ago and their mother works to keep them, and their grandmother who picks them up every afternoon. They stay with us from seven o'clock until four pm every day. Their



mother was sick in September, and they were very sad because she could not work. They have lunch and eat breakfast with us because there is no food at home when the mother is ill and cannot go to work.

Thanks friends for your loyalty all these years and for your love of the needlest children in Peru. Thank you for being our friends all these years. Blessings.

Isabel Montoya, Director

# STREET EDUCATORS, MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA

"In Gratitude to Funvini.......for taking and welcoming me, a street child, and beginning the process of sowing values, responsibility and many other good qualities in me to prepare me for life. For the marvellous work of the Educators who made me a citizen and a Bachiller, and gave me the hope of a professional career. I want to record a thousand thanks."



Those words were written by a teenager from the streets of Medellín. They were inscribed on a little plague that he gave to Funvini on the occasion of his receiving his his Bachillerato: Hiah School Certificate. He was one of eight young people who graduated as Bachillers at a special ceremony on Saturday, December 19th 2015. These eight teenagers all came from the streets of the city and had been enabled to study and gain their qualifications due to the support of Funvini which had paid for their education and supplied much encouragement. and all the additional back-up at

Casa Walsingham. Some of them had slept in the street at night, then gone to Casa Walsingham in the morning for breakfast, a shower, a change of clothes, homework and lunch, after which they had gone to school. Eight might not seem a lot, and indeed Funvini has 500 more children who go to school, but many of them come from the shanty-towns.

These eight came from the street and were once considered to be 'rubbish'; absolute no-hopers whom everyone else had given up as a bad job. They were found by the charity's Street Educators and, since Funvini is a charity of Last Resort, given a chance. Now they have the opportunity of a future, with the hope of a career and a family. In their name I say 'Thank You' to all you who make our work possible.

Pauline Allan

## FEEDING PROGRAMME, HONDURAS

Another year has flown by at the Alternatives and Opportunities programme. When the final reports were submitted at the end of the year, all present to hear the verbal presentation sat in wonderment at how could so much have been done for so many children and their families.

There were reports on the health education, the primary health care, the most recently introduced early childhood stimulation project and its excellent results (in the nutritional area of this project the number of 50 children with undernutrition at the beginning was reduced to 10 and they continue to be followed closely and are improving), the School for Parents, the project for youth leaders, the project to help improve family income and the results of the scholarship program to assist children enter and remain in school.

The snacks provided as an integral part of the health education program, as in the past, were frequently the major nutritional input for the day of many of these very needy children. Also nutrients have their very positive direct and indirect effect on all of the activities mentioned.





All of us send our heartfelt thanks to the donors of the funds required to purchase these snacks.

Dr. Donald Kaminsky, Alternativas y Oportunidades ayohonduras.wordpress.com

#### **ASIAN PROJECTS**

## LITTLE FLOWER LEPROSY VILLAGE, INDIA

We use the Caring and Sharing money for those leprosy patients who live outside of the colony and in the rural villages.



Chandra is from the RamNagar, Dholy station Uttar Pradesh. He was infected by Leprosy when he was just nine year old. He was treated by Br. Christo Das, who gave him the shelter at Sunderpur as it was difficult for him

to go back to the village where he came from. Over the years, now he feels better off and has a house in the village and he is grateful to have a toilet where no one else has one.



So he feels respected and better with the support that was provided by Caring and Sharing.



Prem lives in Chainpur. He was infected by leprosy in 2003. When his family learned that he had leprosy, he was kicked out from the village. He started living by the river bank, but his house was burned by villagers. People found him by

the railway track, and sent him to Little Flower. He was treated in Sunderpur and got the job of barber. Now he has a house in the village and he is respected. He is grateful

for the Caring and Sharing support in having a house in the village.



Kabita Bhattarai

#### **CNI-SSI NAGPUR, INDIA**

Church of North India Social Service Institute has organized an exposure visit for the farmers of Katol block on 12th December 2015 at Reshimbagh in Nagpur. The objective of the same was to give insight to the farmers about the latest in the field of Agriculture and related trends, thereby motivating the farmers to use the latest techniques in farming.

The group of 50 farmers from 20 villages of Katol block visited CNISSI. Mrs. Aradhana Upadhyay, Director, CNISSI talked about the objective of the exposure visit to the Agriculture exhibition with the farmers and also welcomed the representative of 12 newly selected villages for Rural development work of CNISSI. She also spoke about the other involvement of CNISSI in urban areas so that the farmers know about the organization

as a whole.

The farmers were then taken to the exhibition wherein the farmers saw and learnt about latest equipment used for cultivation, such as new and improvised tractors, thresher machines, and water pumps. They also gained information about the watershed

program, how to cultivate hybrid horticulture and alternate cropping systems.



Team 1 at exhibition along with Dr. Siddharth Bhange

The farmers could learn about the agro based business and understand about goat farming, fisheries, poultry farm, floriculture, honey bee, silkworm polyhouse, shed net etc. Dr. Siddharth Bhange and Mr. Bagde facilitated the exposure visit. The day long programme has helped the farmers to know in details about the latest innovations in the field of agriculture as well as a few indigenous methods of cropping also.

# EBENEZER HOME OF SOCIAL OUTREACHES (EHSO), INDIA CHILD DAY CARE CENTRE

The 25 children attending Ebenezer Day Care Centre are from hamlets surrounding the village of Kollapanchery on the outskirts of Chennai city. All children come from poor families with low wages and most of these children are left on the streets while their parents work. Ebenezer Children's Home in partnership with Caring and Sharing set up the Day Care Centre to provide these children with good education, play schemes, healthy food and clothes to wear.

The Chennai floods did not spare these children's families; the continuous incessant rains breached the local lake with widespread flooding in all the hamlets of Kollapanchery, people were displaced and stranded without food, water, electricity and necessities of life. EHSO distributed food, milk powder, medicines and blankets to the tiny tots' families.



This year our Christmas event was a remarkable one, the Children's Home campus was indeed filled with a wonderful festive mood and all the children were full of joy and cheer, the tiny tots sang action songs and Santa Claus gave away Christmas gifts – a Christian book, a dress, a toy, sweet, snacks and fruit juice and a Biryani chicken lunch.

The children and the staff send a very big thank you to all our sponsors who made this very special event possible and for being such a blessing with their generosity and love.

Martin Edwards

#### **EUROPEAN PROJECTS**

#### CHERNOBYL CHILDREN RYE. BELARUS

A letter from Nina Fedorovich, mother of Christina:

Christina was born on 15 February 2004 and was very weak from the start: she needed an operation immediately after birth. She suffers from severe cerebral palsy, and I am raising her on my own. Five years ago, a very bad time for us both, I Tatiana and Father met Seraev Plotnitsky. Thev did not remain indifferent to our plight, but took us under the wing of the Pinsk Children's Hospice. I was unable to acquire a wheelchair for my little girl, so they helped me to find sponsors and told me about their dear friends in the UK, the Chernobyl Children Rye charity, which put all efforts



toward supplying a new, comfortable wheelchair for Christina.

Doctor Anna Lebed visits us once every month and her professional advice is a great support. Nurse Elena Zavadskaya comes once a fortnight, and we have become close friends. We receive invaluable aid in the form of Pampers and children's food. Special days (such as birthdays) are celebrated with gifts of fruit and sweets. The New Year/Christmas period is seen in with a visit by Santa Claus and his assistant Snow Maiden with presents and treats. We thank God with all our hearts that we have the support of such kind, generous people, who are ready to help at any time.

The Pinsk hospice is extremely grateful for your support in helping to make the lives of children with disabilities and life limiting illnesses more comfortable.

#### **FUNDATIA NEW LIFE, ROMANIA**

I want to thank the people that I had a chance to meet for their warm welcome that I received when I visited some of the churches that are part of Caring and Sharing [April 2015]. It was really good to meet so many positive people who support Fundatia New Life and who are keen to help spread the word about our work at Amara.

Thanks to our very generous supporters, life at the house continues, with its good and bad, twelve years after the opening. The boys have now grown and they have turned into adults. Unfortunately, most of them have severe health problems. And one of the things that we have noticed is that as they get older, their health problems are getting bigger. Therefore the monthly sum of money we spend on medical investigations or medical treatment is increasing.





As a charity we do our best to provide for them everything they need for good health. At the same time we thank God for all the miracles he did since the boys have moved to the house and we pray that He will continue to provide for their needs.

Thank you for all your continuous support to Fundatia New Life, and I do hope to meet some of you during my visit this year, at Easter time.

Marius Istrate

http://www.fundatianewlife.com/

# Could you be our new Treasurer?

Richard Hughes has served diligently as our treasurer since 2012. Due to other commitments he has decided to stand down from this position with Caring and Sharing (East Sussex). We therefore seek someone who is computer literate and who has banking, book keeping, accountancy or other financial experience to join the Caring and Sharing committee in this essential voluntary role. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact our Chairman, Canon Hugh Moseley on 01273 813260.

#### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Our financial year is 1 June - 31 May each year and these figures are those examined and submitted to the Charity Commission for each accounting period.

#### **Totals sent to projects**

Page	Project	2013/14	2014/15
4	Steve Willis Memorial Fund	£5,525	£5,900
5	Clergy Pensions, Rwanda	£3,675	£3,600
6	School for the Deaf, Tanzania	£2,625	£2,900
7	Bolgatanga, Ghana	£5,000	£2,000
8	Fistula Hospital, Ethiopia	£5,275	£5,400
9	My Father's House, Olinda, Brazil	£3,900	£4,200
10	Casa Guatemala orphanage and village	£2,275	£1,800
11	Children's nurseries, Lima, Peru	£6,200	£4,300
12	Street Educators, Medellín, Colombia	£8,575	£4,800
13	Feeding Programme, Honduras	£4,000	£9,400
14	Little Flower Leprosy Centre, Raxaul, India	£7,000	£6,900
15	Social Services Institute, CNI, Nagpur, India	£4,000	£4,700
16	Ebenezer Day Care Centre, Chennai, India	£1,800	£3,100
17	Chernobyl Children Rye	£5,100	£3,800
18	Fundatia New Life, Romania	£5,175	£5,400
	TOTALS	£70,125	£68,200

#### **CARING AND SHARING EUCHARISTS 2016**

Wednesday 11th May 7.30 pm at St Peter's Church, Bexhill TN40 2HE

Speaker: Margaret Rutter will talk about the nurseries in the Anglican Diocese of Peru. *Refreshments afterwards*.

Saturday 8th October 11 am, St John's Church, Meads, Eastbourne BN20 7ND

Speaker: Tony Isaac will talk about Clergy Pensions, Rwanda. Bring a packed lunch. Drinks provided.

#### MEMBERS OF THE CURRENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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