



Greetings Friends of FISCH! We have lots of news which we would like to share with you this spring as the seasons change. Important highlights this season include a NEW Drop-in-Centre (DiC) in Iringa and the launch of an important food parcel sponsorship programme which aims to provide a basic package of food to FISCH Kids identified as being in urgent need of one. Please read on to find out more, and feel free to share this edition of the Bites with a friend.

★ Food Parcel Sponsorship Program ★

“ **An update from Rich, co-founder of FISCH;**

People often ask me what causes children to live on the street in Iringa. The answer is complex and unique to each individual's circumstances. However, one of the most common and heartbreaking reasons is due to a **severe lack of food.**

FISCH always tries to reunite children with their relatives where possible, however in a country where many are orphaned due to HIV and malaria, it is often a grandparent or distant relative who is left to raise and provide. One of the ways in which FISCH tries to help is **to provide children with food parcels** so that they can live with a relative and remove the need for them to turn to the street. With this basic need provided the child is then **able to turn their attention to education and gaining skills; that will one day enable them to provide for themselves.**

With more and more children being identified by FISCH as needing food parcel support, we are launching a food parcel sponsorship appeal. A monthly commitment of just **£13.50** will enable us to provide a food parcel which includes **25kg maize flour, 5kg beans and 1lt of oil.**

In time our hope is to raise enough sponsorships for up to 40 children. If you think you can help then please visit the following website where you can sign up for a monthly donation.

<https://gofisch.charitycheckout.co.uk/FISCHfoodparcelappeal>

Alternatively if you have any questions or would like more information please contact me at **rich@gofisch.org**

Our aim will be to match donors to an individual child and, if wanted, provide bi-annual updates including a picture and feedback on how the child is progressing.

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FISCH United Update

The FISCH footy team are regular features in the FISCH Bites and we are pleased to inform our Friends that not only is the Team making an impact within FISCH, but are also making an impact outside FISCH. The local community is becoming more aware about FISCH Ministry because of the presence and activities (and victories!) of FISCH UTD. The Team was recently visited by two local media companies, Country FM and Nuru FM to speak publically about FISCH, it's background, what FISCH aims to achieve, and what the Team's future plans were.

We also have been informed that although most of the FISCH UTD players are under 18 years old, they were invited to participate in the Easter League for youths aged 23-25, to encourage confidence and to stretch their talents. They made it through the first round of the league but then were pushed out of the second round by a 3-1 loss to IP Mazembe.

FISCH UTD continue to train several times a week, overseen by Erasto.

We are really proud of our Kids in the footy team – not only does football unite individuals but also communities. FISCH UTD – we salute you!!



FISCH Sewing Club

Do you recall in the Autumn Bites we shared the great news that a sewing club had been started at the DiC for the FISCH Girls? In January we informed you that through kind financial gifts FISCH has been able to purchase more sewing machines, with our current total standing at five. Several girls have been coming along to the Club to learn the sewing trade; Lucy, Neema, Promina and Salome are just some of the girls benefitting from the club.

In March the Sewing Club received an order request from the FISCH Office to produce 23 sets of school uniforms. These uniforms were all produced and then distributed to the various FISCH Kids that needed them. Isn't this a fantastic way to encourage the Kids to help each other out??



Tino, Jimmy and Lucy

Do you remember **Tino** from the Autumn Bites? He left school to work towards running a small taxi service on motorbike (common in Iringa) and Pastor Stefano reported that Tino was a good driver. Well, he is progressing well with his motorbike-related activities. FISCH is looking to help support him financially to arrange his driving licence so he can start providing taxi services.

Jimmy was once a Kid receiving support from FISCH. Now he lives with his grandmother and works by carrying luggage around for people. His hard work and earnings mean that him and his grandmother can live fairly well and independently of FISCH. We are really pleased for him!

Lucy is a member of the FISCH Sewing Club. She used to live with her uncle in a village on the outskirts of Iringa, but the FISCH Team were notified that Lucy was being beaten badly by her uncle because he did not want her to live with him. Lucy has been removed from that situation and is currently living with Pastor Stefano at FISCH.

★ Drop-In-Centre Update ★

FISCH have some very exciting news about the Drop-in-Centre (DiC), but before we elaborate we'd like to introduce a campaign in the UK which has partnered with FISCH Ministries...

TSS Aware is a charity in the UK dedicated to raising awareness of the potentially fatal condition known as Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS). The charity was founded by the family of Natasha who sadly passed away on February 14th 2013 after using a tampon for the first time. Natasha was a sparky young lass involved with church, music, drama and dance and her sudden and unexpected death came as a devastating shock to all who knew her. After her death Natasha's family decided that they wanted to raise awareness and promote the symptoms about TSS so that no-one else need go through the pain and sadness that they have gone, and are still going through.

TSS can be triggered by many things but can also be mistakenly diagnosed as something else, as in the case of Natasha. The symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea, headaches, fevers, a sunburn-like rash, muscle aches, dizziness and confusion.

As part of this awareness campaign they wanted to create a positive legacy for Natasha. Natasha had visited East Africa and been involved with building homes for orphans in Uganda, and had spent many a happy hour cuddling and playing with the children there. Natasha's family had heard of FISCH Ministries and its activities in Iringa, Tanzania, and before long a prayerful plan was borne – to raise funds for a drop-in-centre for FISCH that would become Natasha's legacy.

This involved months of whacky fundraising activities, such as a 18km sponsored march and a Buy-A-Brick campaign, and culminated in Mandy and Jean, Natasha's mum and grandmother, throwing themselves out of a plane at 15,000 feet along with 16 other supporters of TSS Aware for a sponsored skydive!

It has been a vision of FISCH Ministries to have a permanent physical home in Iringa since the Project was founded in 2007. With the support from TSS Aware, FISCH has been blessed with the funds to purchase a plot of land in Iringa which will house the continued activities of FISCH for as long as God sees fit. The land currently contains a lot of rubble and a half-completed building, but the foundations are laid. Our vision for the future DiC will include all the current activities (FISCH Office, the Sewing Club, Homework Help, FISCH Church, Saturday Feeding Project) and will be a place where the vulnerable children of Iringa can come and find love, friendship, nutritional, financial and educational support, all in the name of Christ Jesus.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the TSS Aware Team for this wonderful collaboration, and invite readers of FISCH to learn more about their campaign at tssaware.org. Most of all we'd like to thank God because with Him, all things are possible.

