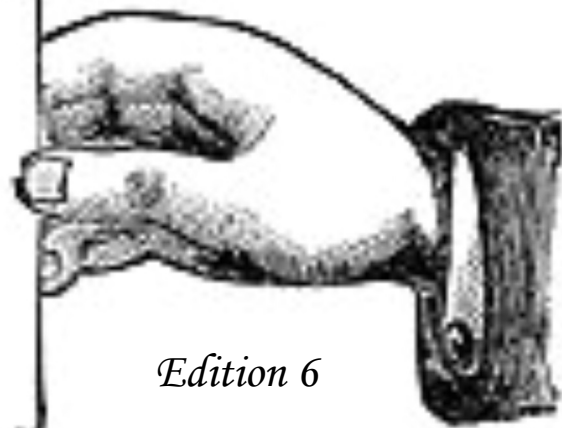


FISCH FOOD



Edition 6

the Future for Iringa Street Children monthly news bulletin

“ It looks like it is going to be a busy and exciting summer for FISCH! New team members, teams heading out from the UK and other exciting things that are going on! We hope you enjoy this latest letter and the insight it will hopefully give you into what has been going on and the upcoming summer with FISCH. God Bless!

{Jon Martin}

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Contact Us

If you have any questions or queries about anything you read in FISCH Food or you just want more information about FISCH then please contact;

Rich & Lissie Gercke - richandlissiegercke@yahoo.co.uk
Jon Martin - jmm150@hotmail.com

Update on what has been happening at FISCH:

It is almost a year since we acquired the drop in centre and the FISCH team moved in. With the help of the 2 fantastic teams that visited Iringa last summer it was transformed from the tired rundown building the first team met to the fresh and smart drop in centre by the time the second team left. The most important thing is that the children want to use it and our proud that it is their place in Iringa. Day to day life at the drop in centre continues with the team arranging food parcels for families that are struggling, making arrangements to place children in schools and enrolling children on vocational courses where they have an ambition to learn skills such as carpentry and mechanics. Every week children are visited to check on their progress at school and home and also to receive feedback from their carers. Through these visits the team can then assess how best to help the children whether that is by some extra tutoring to help boost their grades or a few sessions with them to encourage them how to behave well at home. While primary school is free in Tanzania, Secondary school



is not and only those who perform well in their final exams gain a place at secondary school. Those that don't have to accept that they will not attend secondary school and look for employment or, if they are lucky, fall back on family that are wealthy enough to pay for them to attend a non-government school. If a child wants to attend secondary school and shows that they are committed to their education we aim to offer every child that opportunity and the team will find a local secondary school to place our children in. It has been really rewarding to see children the team have helped off the street achieve highly and go on to be accepted into secondary education.



FISCH is a project of
The Grassroots Trust

(Registered Charity No.
1060034)
8 Meadow Way, Farnham,
Surrey, GU10 4DY

Particularly encouraging has been to be informed that several of our children have been accepted onto a sponsorship scheme (through the David Tilley foundation) at St. Michaels secondary school where Rich spent a year teaching. And with the good things that happen there are of course the things that frustrate such as children that haven't caught the desire for changing their future and are lagging behind at school, those that still give in to the temptations of street life and one of our girls that has recently had to drop out of school because she was got pregnant by a man that took advantage of her. But we are blessed to be given the opportunity to love these children all the more and give them the means to pick themselves up again.



What's going on right now:

As we approach the summer we have exciting things to look forward to. The last few weeks we have had Sean, a gap year student, at the project who has been helping us to set up a homework help club. This new initiative aims to provide a place at the drop in centre after school where secondary school children can utilise the time and space to complete their homework and receive extra tutoring if they need it before they return home to help their families and carers with the household chores. We are hoping to build a small library of all the textbooks that children use at school so that they can have access to them for their homework. We currently have 4 textbooks but are hoping to raise funds to buy some more.



What's coming up:

We are really thrilled to be able to tell you that this summer a group of approximately twenty from Haywards Heath (predominately from All Saints, Lindfield) will be visiting Tanzania for a number of weeks supporting local projects, volunteering alongside the Tanzanians and experiencing the richness of a new culture. This enthusiastic team of volunteers has offered to help with FISCH activities for one of the weeks during their visit.



With a rich diversity of skills to offer between them, they are hoping to get involved with a number of FISCH activities including the following:

- FISCH medical room - building shelves and helping to furnish this room within the drop in centre
- Lockers - building a set of lockers at the drop in centre which we hope will provide the street children with a safe place to keep their possessions
- FISCH Saturday project & FISCH Youth club – leading the kids in fun activities throughout the week

Kids music performance – helping to overcome the negative image often associated with the street kids in the local area by organising a performance of singing and dancing for the children to take part in.

It is always a blessing when people with a heart for service volunteer to give their time to visit Iringa and work with the project.

This summer a wonderful couple from Newcastle, Rory and Sammy McDonald, are travelling out to Tanzania to work with our team for 3 weeks. We are looking forward to seeing the fruit of the enthusiasm and skills that they will bring! Please be praying for them.

Ways to get involved:

- A. Please pray for the project. The project is run on prayer and this is our number one request from our friends and supporters!**
- B. Why not consider contributing to the purchase of a text book for the learning centre? The average cost is... per book.**
- C. FISCH has next to no admin costs in the UK, however we could not operate without employing a small team of local Tanzania people who have demonstrated a heart and commitment to serving the street children through FISCH. You could sponsor their employment with FISCH through a modest monthly contribution. For further details email Rich (richandlissiegercke@yahoo.co.uk)**

Running the homework club by Sean Derby

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter Sean Derby, a gap year student, has recently been working with FISCH and one of the projects he has been busily involved in is setting up and running a new homework club at the drop in centre. Here is a report from Sean to give an insight on how this new club has been going.

Children started coming at half 3 and were provided with Ugali and beans which had been brought earlier.

6 students came, three in form one, two in form two and one in form three. We split the students into forms and Alex worked through some questions with the form one and two groups and myself with the student from form three. None of the students had any homework so we spent more time on lessons. The session went very well, best one so far with students working hard and receiving a lot of direct help. They left around 6.

It is good that we have got the text books; this will help the students as well as the teachers in helping the students. It is good that we have managed to visit schools on Friday, but the schools have a half day so we could only visit two. However we hope these visits made an impact and we will continue to visit the other schools. We have started to draw up a list of the students we should be targeting and where they are. The more interaction with the schools we have to gather this information the better.

Prayer Points

- For the new team members of the FISCH team in Tanzania.

- For the provision of funds to pay for the annual rent for the drop in centre. This is an additional cost sent out to the regular payments to support the work FISCH does.

- For the safety of the people travelling out from the UK this summer to help with the project.

- For Rich and Lissie as they head out to Iringa this July. This is also the first time Rich has been back since the project first begun. Pray that the time they spend with Mote and the team can be really productive as they plan and pray for the future.

Answered Prayers

- We thank God for the provision of new members for the Tanzanian team.

- For Gods continued provision and blessings for the work that FISCH is doing. The impact this project has had on these children is truly remarkable!



- For the team from Haywards Heath. Thank God for there willingness to be involved and there commitment to take time out to support the local projects.



Fundraising idea of the month

"Paige Hunter and friends rolled up their sleeves and baked 3 days worth of cakes and other delicacies to sell at Bristol Vet School. Over the 3 days they raised over £230! A huge thank you to everyone who baked and bought for FISCH! "

If you've had a fundraising event for FISCH then we really want to hear from you! Please send a short description of who you are, what you did, how much it raised and a photo if you have one to us.

Rich and Lissie: richandlissiegercke@yahoo.co.uk or Jon: jmm150@hotmail.com



THE GRASSROOTS TRUST
(Charity No: 1060034)
DONATION FORM FOR FISCH



Or: Standing Order Authority

First Name/s:

Last name:

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Tel:

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To: (Name of your Bank)

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Post Code:

Sort Code: - - Bank Account no:

Please deduct: (numbers) £

(Words) £

from the above account on / / 20

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HSBC, 140 High Street, Barnet, Herts, EN5 5XW

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8 Meadow Way, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4DY

I/We wish to financially support the work of THE GRASSROOTS TRUST and would like this donation to be given to FISCH.

Either: I/We enclose a one off cheque for;
(payable to THE GRASSROOTS TRUST)

- £5
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I want The GRASSROOTS Trust (Charity No: 1060034) to treat all donations I make on or after 6th April 2006 as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise.

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Notes:

- As your donation covers donations that you will make in the future, please notify us if you change your name and address while the declaration is still in force.
- You can cancel the declaration at any time by notifying us. It will then not apply to donations you make on or after the date of cancellation or such later date as you specify.
- You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that we reclaim on your donations in the tax year. This is currently 28p for each pound that you give.
- If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income or capital gains tax equal to the tax that we reclaim, you can cancel your declaration as described in note 2
- If you pay tax at a higher rate, you can reclaim tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, please contact us. You can also get the leaflet IR113 Gift Aid from your local tax office.