



TO WITNESS THE LOVE OF  
JESUS CHRIST TO THE  
STREET CHILDREN  
OF IRINGA BY STRIVING TO  
MEET THEIR NEEDS  
THAT THEY MAY EXPERIENCE  
LIFE IN ALL ITS  
**GOODNESS**

## Welcome to the Autumn edition of FISCH Food!

Greetings, Friends of FISCH! We're so glad you are reading this! We love sharing with you the great news from the Drop-in-Centre and ministries at FISCH – it's so wonderful to see the Street Children of Iringa being given a new life and a future. We also really believe in transparency and keeping you informed of what your prayers, funds and support is doing and the difference it is making. We are so grateful! So please share this newsletter with a friend, and read on to find out how the Children and Team at FISCH are getting on. Asante sana!



## Food Parcel Sponsorship Programme

The Food Parcel Sponsorship Programme has been one of our **longest-running ministries** and has affected and blessed so many Children.

Each month a package containing **maize flour, beans, rice, sugar and oil** is provided to the family of a sponsored Child. This package not only provides a **decent meal each day** for the Child, but also provides **for their family** as well. Twice a year, an update report is provided from each Child to each individual Sponsor.

Here are some recent photos of members of each Family as they come to collect their Food Parcel for the month. If you'd be interested in sponsoring a Child (sadly, we always have several on the waiting list), then check out this QR code which will take you to our **website page**, which details more about the parcels and information on how to sign up.







## Sewing Class Update



The Sewing Class has been running for quite a while now with many Children passing through and learning the skills and techniques needed to become a **seamstress** or **tailor**.

**Eva**, an ex-Street Child, learnt the trade several years ago, built up her **experience and skills** and now **runs the Class**, teaching the young ladies and lads each week. She has also been working alongside Paulina, a FISCH Tz Trustee and local Maasai with lots of experience in design, who is coaching Eva in some **new designs** to include in the classes.

Currently we have **two Sewing Club Students** who are close to completing a 1-year Sewing Course at FISCH, and have succeeded in creating a skirt and dress that looks both **beautiful and intricate!** According to feedback from the Sewing Class, the Students have learned how to make measurements of a customer, to design and make a gown from 8 pieces, a skirt from 8 pieces, trousers, a shirt, and a pencil gown.

Our Team in Iringa try to match the Sewing Students with **experienced sewers** in the community when they have finished their course, so that they can become more familiar with dealing with the public, marketing, bargaining rates and items, and so on. We very much hope that our two Students will have **much success** when they graduate the Sewing Class!



*Here you can see the Students measuring and cutting their fabric, and trying on their creations.  
What beautiful garments!*

## FISCH Church

FISCH Church – the **good** news – FISCH Church is continuing to **thrive and grow!**

Recently we had **over 110 attendees** on a Sunday morning, all singing and praising the Lord! Wonderfully, we have many adults and children from the surrounding communities come to join in with the Team and Children at the Drop-in-Centre.

FISCH Church – the sort of bad news – as a result of these increasing congregation on a Sunday, we have started to **run out of chairs!**

We are looking to purchase some more chairs to cater for our larger church family, and also to provide food for the increased numbers of meals being provided. If **you or your church** would like to support FISCH Church, we'd love to hear from you!  
Please email [Rich@gofisch.org](mailto:Rich@gofisch.org).





## Sanitary Towel Provision

A recent initiative at FISCH is to support young Women monthly with the **provision of sanitary towels**.

It may seem like a very simple thing (and one we may take for granted in the UK), but without these products many young Women would very likely miss **several school days each month**, and this will hinder their education and their prospects. It's a small gift, but one that has a large effect.

Here you can see the Women receiving their sanitary towels with joy!



## Mechanical Vocational Training

An academic education is **not for everyone**, and so we support some of our FISCH Kids through the **Vocational Training Programme**. After completing their training, the next step is **employment**, and we are currently supporting four young men through their **Car Mechanic training**, by placing them in local garages and assisting them with accommodation. FISCH has provided them with **suitable clothing, boots and tools**. Recent communications with the Team in Iringa has provided good feedback that the Students are actively involved with their work at the garage and are happy in their placements.

The Vocational Training Programme is the appropriate form of training for more and more FISCH Kids. For this reason, we are hoping to develop a **pool of Sponsors** who donate regularly into a pool of **ringfenced funds** which can be utilised to provide the suitable candidates for Vocational Training. If you would like to contribute to this fund, no matter how small your gift, we'd love to hear from you! Please check out the QR code here for a link to our website for more information on how to get involved, or check out [gofisch.org/education-support](https://gofisch.org/education-support).

Here's some photos of the lads showing off their new overalls, safety boots and tools!





## Reunification with Family – Thomas' Story



Thomas\* is a young lad from the streets who was registered with FISCH back in July 2023. During his time with FISCH he received **counselling, food provision, clothing, and accommodation**. Recently he decided that he was **ready to return home**, and the FISCH Team set about trying to trace his family through the Social Welfare Office of Iringa Municipality.

Fantastically **Thomas' grandmother** was located near the Western border of Tanzania. Thus, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August, an epic journey began!

A FISCH Team member accompanied Thomas as he left at 5am to travel by bus across the country, finally arriving in the district by 10pm that evening. The next day a meeting was held with the **Social Welfare Officer** for the district, and after a further 5 hours travel, Thomas arrived at his grandmother's house.

Here, he was received with **great joy** by his grandmother (who dropped the jug she was carrying at the time when she first saw him) and his uncle. There were **smiles all around** as they **embraced their missing Thomas**, with his uncle immediately ringing around to other family members to announce his return.

Thomas' grandmother shared that she **never expected to see her grandson alive again** – after his unexplained disappearance in December 2022, she had reported him missing to the village ward, the local police and the local government. They could not believe Thomas was still alive! They prepared a meal and shared together as a family, and began **making plans for the future** which included Thomas once again – including planning to enrol him into **automobile mechanics training**, following in his uncle and other family members' footsteps.

What an amazing story to share with you, our readers. We'd also like to take this opportunity **to thank the FISCH Team** for not only tracking down Thomas' family, but assisting and accompanying him in the journey to the village, and of course, the long long journey back to Iringa. **What an amazing Team and ministry!**

*\*names have been changed to protect identities*



## Reunification with Family – Benjamin's Story

Benjamin\* had been registered with FISCH since 2019, when he was 15 years old. He was living with his grandmother but **she struggled to care for him**, so he would come to the FISCH Drop-in-Centre **during college holidays to hang out**.

Benjamin decided to return home to his mother to try and help provide for her, especially as his father abandoned her previously. His intention was to engage in **vocational training** of some sort near to where she lives, as he felt he was honour-bound to return and try to provide for her.

To make this happen, in August the FISCH Team were able to connect with Benjamin's mother and a local garage in the area. His mother was **very happy to have her son back home** again, and was amazed that Benjamin had been granted the opportunity via the FISCH Vocational Training Programme to study Car Mechanics, and to receive support providing **rental accommodation** for him during this time.

One of the Team members went with Benjamin to visit the garage to **confirm his upcoming training**, and to meet the garage owner. The owner requested that Benjamin pay the entrance fee before starting to train, and to have his equipment (toolbox, tools, overalls and boots) ready. Benjamin did not have these items or the finances to fund them, so our Team Member explained to the garage owner how FISCH was supporting the Street Children through the Vocational Training Programme. We invited the garage owner to take on Benjamin as a way of supporting FISCH and **giving back to the community**, until such a time as we could provide the funding for his training. The garage owner agreed to this, and so Benjamin was kitted out and able to **start training immediately!**

We hope to keep you updated with Benjamin's progress in his training in future editions of the FISCH Food. **Watch this space!**



*\*names have been changed to protect identities*

## School Meal Contribution

Noel is another vulnerable young boy who has been benefiting from **Educational Support** since 2021. He comes from a **very poor family** who struggled to provide him with adequate food, and life was so hard for the family that his mother decided to move back in with her parents. Consequently, Noel's walk to school now takes **over an hour each way**. It's brilliant that Noel continues to go to school despite the long hike twice a day, but it did add an extra difficulty to his day to day life – **no lunch**. The school Noel attends does provide lunch meals but Noel's family was **unable to afford these**, and it was not practical for Noel to walk home to share a small lunch with his family... so he was enduring the whole day without any food until that evening after he'd walked the hour plus home after school. Unsurprisingly, Noel was finding it **difficult to focus on his studies**. When FISCH discovered this extra difficulty in his life, we agreed to pay the school meal contribution to help him focus and provide him with a decent meal each day during school hours. This simple blessing has been transformative to Noel's school life, and we are so pleased for him. Getting a good education **opens doors** for these Children to achieve a better lot for themselves in life and increases the chances of them becoming self-sustaining in the future, so we are really pleased to have been able to help Noel in this small way to continue in his studies.





## A Cycling Fundraiser

**Samuel**, his dad **Rob**, his uncle and cousin (**James** and **Jude**) decided they wanted to ride from **Bramley to Brighton for fun**. Samuel thought it could be a good opportunity to get sponsored and raise money for FISCH so that's what he did! He created a Just Giving page and raised **around £300** from generous supporters.

The ride went really well with no-one falling off and no punctures! They completed the **43-mile** ride in **4:20 hours** and arrived looking as fresh as when they'd started and immediately went to the arcades!

**A big thank you** to all of us at FISCH to Samuel and his family!



*From Bramley  
(left) to Brighton  
(right)!*

*Left photo: Jude,  
James, Samuel,  
Rob (L-R)*



## St Joseph's Fundraiser

A huge **Thank You** to the **pupils and parents** of **St Joseph's Catholic School** in **Guildford**, who raised **£723** to provide **uniforms** for **Children at FISCH**!

As well as wearing items of clothing in **colours from the Tanzanian flag**, they also had to choose just one single item of stationery to use for the entire school day, gaining an insight into the **realities of studying with limited resources**, as is the case for so many children across the world, including **Children in Tanzania**.

Ahead of the fundraising event, Year 5 pupils spent some time researching life in Tanzania, before holding an **online interview with Aloyce**, one of FISCH's University graduates, to understand the challenges he had overcome in his life and how he had **made the most** of the **educational opportunities** provided to him through FISCH. It was a great learning experience for all involved!

Here you can see pupils participating in the question-and-answer section.

St Joseph's school also ran a **Mufti Day**, with further funds raised going to FISCH- **Thank You again!** Here's a photo of some of the pupils in their Mufti clothing.



*Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.*

*Forgive as the Lord forgave you. – Colossians 3:13*

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