

November 2022

FISCH



gofisch.org

office@gofisch.org

facebook.com/futureforiringastreetchildren

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 hope the miserable wet weather isn't dampening your spirits after our glorious heatwaves. In Iringa, Tanzania, there is plenty of colour, life and exciting activities happening at the Drop-in-Centre. As usual we have lots of news to share with you, and we really hope you enjoy reading this edition. Keeping our Supporters and Friends updated is really important to us – you are part of the Team too and we hope you can see the fruits of your support and generosity. FISCH wouldn't be doing the work it's doing with you!



Birthday Celebrations

Did you know FISCH is **15 years old** this year?! The adage is true, 'great oaks from little acorns grow', and to **each and every person** who has been a part of this life-changing journey for so many people... **THANK YOU!!!**

FISCH was founded on 1st September 2007, and on 3rd September this year **FISCH Day** was celebrated in Tanzania! The larger community around FISCH all joined in to celebrate this fabulous milestone, with Children taking part in dramas, traditional dances, modern dance routines, and of course, **sharing a meal together**. There was even a fantastic **birthday cake** to be enjoyed!



What a wonderful achievement it is to reach 15 years in action. Of course, the **ultimate thanks** must go to **Father God** and His never-ending grace and mercies. FISCH was founded to witness **the love of Christ** to the Street Children of Iringa, and we are so grateful and honoured to be part of this Project with Him. **Praise Him!**



Top left: the celebrations included dance
Middle left: the cake!
Bottom left: everyone celebrating together
Right: everyone shares a meal



Food Parcel Challenges

As many of our regular Readers and Supporters will know, the **monthly Food Parcels** have been a fantastic success. One of the most common reasons Children turn to the streets is **food scarcity at home**. The Food Parcel Sponsorship Scheme has been running for several years, providing a monthly parcel of **maize flour, beans, rice, sugar and cooking oil** to a FISCH Kid. Not only does this benefit the FISCH Kid, allowing them to have full bellies and enable them to focus on other things like their education, but it also is a **huge blessing to the family** of this Child as well.

Inflation has caused **food prices to rise** considerably over the past year in Tanzania. Coupled with this we have been hit by the **falling value of the pound**, leading to less purchasing power for the monthly donations. As a result, we took the decision to amend the monthly donation for Food Parcels to **£24.50** a month.

This was communicated to our Sponsors, and we have been **really humbled and touched** by the number of Sponsors who have offered to increase their giving in response. Of course, we are so very aware that the cost of living in the UK has risen dramatically recently, and so for those Sponsors who cannot afford to increase their giving – that is ok! We are really **so very grateful** that you continue to sponsor your Child and their monthly food parcel!

Here are some photos of the Children and their relatives collecting their Food Parcels. **Thank you, Sponsors, for all the lives that you are impacting and changing for the better!**



Saturday Feeding Project

Each Saturday, week in, week out, the Saturday Feeding Project meets to provide **community, support** and a **solid tasty meal** for the Kids of FISCH. We are currently averaging **over 50 Children** a week, and food includes **pilau rice, meat, beans, green veg or cabbage, fish, fruits** and sometimes **ice lollies**. The activities that the Kids can take part in includes football, aerobics, checkers, drawing, singing and dancing, talent shows, card games, ball games and skipping.

It's a bustling busy Feeding Project, and it's often the promise of free food that brings the Children off the Street and into the Family at FISCH. The Saturday meal was the **first tiny seed** of the FISCH Ministry, and it remains an integral part of life at the Drop-in-Centre.



Entrepreneurial Update

Our **Small Enterprise Initiative** is going well, we are pleased to report. This Initiative has seen a number of our older FISCH beneficiaries being supported into **self-employment**, in the form of business education, opening bank accounts and microloans. Herieth and Johari are aiming to establish a **sewing business**, Junior has taken to **pig rearing**, Novati is setting up his own **welding workshop**, Neto runs a **spice business** and Jamilia is starting a small **grocery business**. Check out Neto's and Junior's stories below...



Neto

A fab success story is that of Neto, who was originally registered with FISCH back in 2008. He approached the FISCH Team requesting a **wheelbarrow** so that he could **buy spices** and then sell and deliver them to local traders. A trial of the business was conducted in early June, which was a success! He was given a **loan** from FISCH to start his business and he started paying this back monthly as agreed. Amazingly, his business has done so well that he has been able to **pay off his loan** in its entirety early in September, well before it was due. Neto said that he had decided to use his savings from work to pay off the loan sooner, so that he can enjoy a greater profit and look to re-invest his earnings into **expanding his business**, employing others to help him. What a fantastic result! We really hope that Neto continues in his business ventures and inspires other FISCH Kids to **follow in his footsteps** with some hard work and determination.

*Left: Neto with his early wheelbarrow
Below: Junior and his pig rearing enclosure*

Junior

Here's another success story to share with you. Junior is a 14 year old young entrepreneur from a small village in the Moshi region. He was **reunited back with his family** by FISCH in December 2021. His village was far away from any towns with **poor access** and so this limited his job options. Junior was determined to stay at home with his single mother and when he went to live back with her last year, he requested some support for him to begin a small **pig-rearing venture**. FISCH honoured that request providing capital which Junior has invested in 2 pigs and some pigfeed. Junior raises the pigs in the surrounding land where there is an abundance of greenery for them to enjoy and eat. He is also raising chickens and rabbits. Junior and his mother were incredibly grateful for the support, and FISCH have also provided a Food Parcel to Junior to help improve his quality of living. Junior's ambitions are to **breed his pigs to rear and sell**, to sustain him and his mother, and ultimately to **live a better, more wholesome life**.





'Move Zanzibar' Update

You may recall in recent editions of the FISCH Food that the **Move Zanzibar Project** was launched in partnership with FISCH. Move Zanzibar is a community led by **Clalance**, the very first Street Kid that FISCH helped way back in 2007. Move Zanzibar has had **significant growth** since the launch of their Saturday Club and there is a real buzz around the work they are doing, not only in the increased number of Children attending, but also support from local communities and the tourists who visit the island of Zanzibar.

This has been very positive, but over time we have seen that **the vision** of Move Zanzibar has diverged from the objectives of FISCH, and as a Team and as Trustees we have decided **to step back** from the partnership at a natural parting of the ways. We are **really encouraged** with what we have helped to birth in Zanzibar and we are hopeful it will continue to grow and thrive. If you would learn more about the work there and follow their progress in the future, see their website - movezanzibar.org

It was a step of faith to get involved with Move Zanzibar, and sometimes we do not know what crop is in the seeds that we sow – but we're told to keep sowing. Of course, God knows what is in the seeds, and He will use them for His Kingdom as He sees fit! We hope you will join with us as we wish Clalance and his Project all the best, and do pray that **vulnerable children would be blessed** in that area.



Short-Term Accommodation

The Short-Term Accommodation (STA) provides a place where Street Kids can be **accommodated temporarily** while a more long-term solution is found. It is based at the Drop-in-Centre, and overseen by **Lazaro and Lucy**, a married couple who live there and are effectively 'mum and dad'. This means that the STA can operate **24 hours** a day, **7 days** a week, providing shelter and food for the most vulnerable Children.

The STA is really important to our work, because as well as providing **safe shelter** for a Street Child, it also provides an **opportunity** for the FISCH Team to support the Children with counselling, understanding what has led to the Child being on the streets. From here we can begin tracing family or relatives, and assess how best to support that Child back to living with a relative. It also offers Children the chance to become used to living **with structure** and **within a wider family unit** again, before they take the step back to living with a relative and return to school.

We currently have **20 residents** (all boys) at the STA. One of the challenges our Team face at the Drop-in-Centre is how to break the pull of street-living which many of the Children have become used to. There has been some discussion amongst the FISCH Team as to whether a **television** would be a good investment for this aspect of FISCH Ministry. Not only would it provide a focus of camaraderie when the football matches are on (or friendly rivalry – hmm!), but it would also discourage the Street Lads from going to bars to watch TV and football matches.

We are now looking to fund the TV for the STA in the next few months.

We'd also like to introduce a new UK Team Member to our Supporters – **Georgia Jefferies**. Georgia is going to join with **Roy Maguire** overseeing this aspect of FISCH and the great work that goes on at the STA. **Welcome, Georgia!**

Higher Education Update



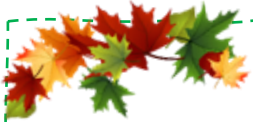
So far FISCH has **14 sponsored Students** in Higher Education! How amazing is that?! Many of the Students are now in their last year of studying and one, Vivian, has recently **graduated** as a teacher this year and is looking forward to additional training to teach at a higher level. All the Students are enthusiastic and hardworking, and **express their gratitude to FISCH and their Sponsors!**

Increased costs have had an impact on Students' travel, stationery, and food expenditure in the last year, but once again we are humbled to share many of our Sponsors have generously offered to increase their contributions accordingly. Our Friends of FISCH are so generous! So please hear our huge **"Thank You"** to everyone who helps fund these Students through their studies.

As a Team we are now tracking how Students gain employment following completion of their studies and will be using this information to ensure that those Street Kids following in their footsteps are encouraged into areas of study that will maximise their chances of getting good jobs. Everything we do at FISCH aims to provide the Kids with **self-sufficiency** and **sustainability** for their future, and this is something Liz and Bob Murphy are overseeing with the Higher Education Students.

We have two more Kids who are progressing on to become Students – **Happiness**, who is starting a Business Management Course, and **Tunu**, who wishes to train to become an accountant. Both of these Students are in need of sponsorship, so if you are interested in supporting them in any shape or form, please contact **Rich@gofisch.org**.

Vocational Training Update



The vocational training continues to be a source of **skill** and **character development** for many young people, most of whom come from a typical Street background and have to adjust to a new way of living. Academic study is not for all and so FISCH provides a future in **other areas of life** with the Vocational Training.

Carpentry, car mechanics, welding, masonry and bricklaying are some of the courses which are currently being studied by some of our FISCH Vocational Students. Recently we have agreed to sponsor **another 5 Students** through a range of vocational training courses, and we will be tracking their progress and assisting them in finding work once qualified. We also have further candidates looking to undertake Vocational Training in due course when funds allow.

If you're interested in supporting these ventures, please do get in touch!



"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." – Matthew 17:20



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