

Issue 6
March 2024

Welcome to Let Them Shine

*Welcome to our
NEWSLETTER*

Welcome to our latest newsletter, published on our website and emailed to sponsors and supporters. We've news on the Centre, a major renovations project, our planned new website and social media presence and of course some stories about the children you are helping.

UPDATES

Gift Aid

Perhaps a strange item to start with but donating through Gift Aid means charities can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It will not cost you any extra. We claim over £250 Gift Aid a month. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, your basic rate is extended by your donation amount meaning you pay more tax at 20% and less at 40%. Making a donation before the end of the tax year might make sense if you're a higher rate taxpayer!

The Children

Children are what we are all about and our responsibility is growing year on year. At the Centre we have 54 children receiving wonderful care and an early years education. Of these 14 are urgently in need a sponsor. The majority are 3 or 4 years old. There are 38 children at primary school and 6 at secondary school, 5 girls and 1 boy.

The costs are increasing. In January, new school uniforms for everyone are over £1200.

Food for the Centre comes in at around £600 a month and salaries about the same. We then have school meals and equipment, water and electricity, health care, building maintenance and so on.



The Centre



Christmas holiday provided (almost) enough time attend to some urgent issues. Floors in one classroom and the girl's bedroom accommodation were replaced due to salt ingress and both rooms fully redecorated. They look very smart. The office was decorated and finally power sockets connected. The outside walls were repainted and then decorated with colourful graphics by a talented local artist. A block rear wall was at last rendered. New curtains were hung, and spongy mats purchased. Once again thank you for your support.

Thank you to everyone who so kindly supported our Christmas Lunch fundraiser. It was a great success. In addition to providing a lovely lunch for a lot of kids there was enough money for comprehensive renovations. The



The artist Harold Mushi, pictured, never went to school but clearly has a great talent and takes huge pride in his work.



REPORTING

We will start sharing reports and pictures of sponsored children with their sponsors this month. Because of the number of children in our care reports will run from March to July. If you're keen for an update sooner, please get in touch.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Our website, Facebook and Instagram presence need an overhaul. Social media can be a powerful communication tool for charities, to raise awareness and, importantly, funds and to better engage beneficiaries. It can help charities reach a much wider audience, much more quickly, than traditional methods of communication.

We are incredibly grateful to Daniel and Allison Thompson who, having been on a safari in and around the Serengeti, agreed to visit Lukani village and the Centre to photograph and film just about everything over four days. Allie, a PR Account Director, is also working on her masters degree in video production.



Perfect! Her husband Dan is a Content & Social Strategist for an Employer Branding Agency. Also perfect! Jointly they have created lots of brilliant media which we will use in our new website and for interesting and regular social media posts over the coming months. In addition, we have help from a communications specialist. We are hoping to bring all this together by mid April.

NAOMI'S STORY

Most children at the Centre are preschool age but we also support sponsored children through primary and secondary schools. Our reputation for helping any child in need is spreading. A secondary



school teacher alerted us to a young girl called Naomi Assantiel. She is 13 years old and unable to afford a proper school uniform, meals, or equipment / books. She's very clever. We visited her home - mud on the outside and mud on the

inside. Naomi lives with her brother Farajah, aged 3, and her mother

and father. Sadly, the parents have given up and drink excessively. There was no food at all in the house.

Whilst Naomi has no sponsor, we agreed to buy her everything she needs for school along with some casual clothes. Farajah only has the pictured pink tracksuit to his name, so we provided clothing. The following day he 'checked in' to the Centre where he was kitted out with a uniform. He stays Monday to Friday. From barely an existence at home, within hours his demeanor changed as he met and played with his new friends. His life changed totally in 24 hours.



Naomi will return home after school daily.

She will have eaten a good lunch. We also provide a food parcel or maize, rice and beans each month.

Do you know someone who might be interested in supporting either Naomi or Farajah? Let Them Shine is only able to do what it does through sponsorship.

TRUSTEES

We are delighted to warmly welcome Jane Henshaw to the Let Them Shine Board and share her thoughts on the appointment:

Let Them Shine has been part of my life for several years. I started sponsoring a child some time ago and then in 2019, I cycled with Anthony Summersell and a group of friends a long way (from London, to Paris and back to Dieppe), raising over £10,000.

Talking to Anthony during the ride, I realised how important the charity is to Lukani, providing much needed early education and also giving support to the village. I learnt that every penny raised goes directly to the charity, which I found impressive. One evening during the bike ride, we spoke briefly to Mr Natai, who was so grateful for our efforts. Mr Natai's love and commitment to the children on the telephone that evening was palpable.

Since, I have stayed in touch with the charity through Ant and

continued the sponsorship. I have enjoyed the newsletter and updates on the centre; the photos are beautiful and humbling. I am always astounded at how Mr Natai and his team manage to make a little money go a very long way. Most recently I especially enjoyed the photo of the Lukani Harley Davidson!

When Ant asked me to become a trustee, I was truly delighted and honoured. I have never been to Africa and although look forward to going to the centre one day, I am grateful for the opportunity now that being a trustee gives me to spread the pleasure and joy of being part of the wider Let them Shine family. I work in the property profession, and I am hoping that my wide network of contacts will provide me with an opportunity to share the good work that Let Them Shine does, so that we may raise more money, and as Mr Natai says, 'share the bread'.

Welcome Jane!

RAYMOND'S STORY- UPDATE



Ray, a delightful 6-year-old half albino, has become a bit of a cause célèbre. You may recall from previous newsletters, he has nystagmus, which is best described as wobbly eyes. It's common in Albinos. Having had three specialist eye examinations, the consensus is to encourage Ray to undertake eye exercises, literally focusing on various tasks. In the words of our deputy Ester *'his eyes are playful, and the condition is caused by his nature and it cannot be corrected but it can decrease a little if he is given many tasks to do such as drawing, coloring, organizing things, games that use the mind will help his optic nerves to tighten'*. We will monitor his progress closely.

MOBILE PHONES

If anyone has an iPhone 9, 10, XR or XS sitting around unwanted please will you consider donating it? We only have two iPhone 8's and they are getting clunky and unreliable.

YOUR MONEY

All our administration, travel and other costs are met personally. Just a reminder that all sponsorship income received is sent in full around the middle of the month.

YOUR FEEDBACK

We never know whether you receive the right amount of information, too little or too much. Please feel free to let us know. In fact, please get in touch with any feedback, thoughts, or suggestions.

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**Let Them Shine is a registered
charity - number 1142281**