

Issue 2
JUNE 2022

Welcome to

Let Them Shine

Welcome to our NEWSLETTER

We understand that not everybody uses Facebook or Instagram or looks at our website (letthemshine.org) and it is important to keep our sponsors and supporters updated. Hopefully this newsletter will fill any gaps. This may mean you read our news twice, but better twice than not at all.

UPDATES

London to Brighton Cycle Ride

Sadly the 2021 London to Brighton bike ride was postponed. But having started fundraising last year the ride is now taking place on Sunday 12th

June. The event is scaled back in terms of riders and support. All money raised will go the Centre – the riders are covering their own costs. Fingers crossed for a dry day.



Communications

In recent years communication between the trustees and Mr Natai, our manager, has been a challenge. He is always busy and with failing eyesight struggles to see his phone. He is 75 years old and new technology like WhatsApp takes some getting used to.

Two things have happened. The first is that we have a brilliant deputy called Ester and she now runs the day-to-day operations very effectively. Second, at just 27 years of age and a tech lover she was delighted when she got an iPhone 8 and an iPad. After a little tuition she is conversant with email, WhatsApp, taking & sending pictures and so on.

Ester reads and replies to messages quickly meaning that, for example, when I inform her we have a new sponsor she finds the right child quickly and can send their story and pictures without delay. Most importantly the child starts at the Centre within days.

The Lukani Children's Centre

The number of children registered at the Centre continued to fall during 2021 as more children moved to primary school where our support continues. We reached the point where only one child



at the Centre was sponsored. Of course, we have plenty of children without sponsors. Sadly, we had to let one full time teacher go but she quickly found another job. Another teacher agreed to share the overnight duties. This rebalanced the staff and child ratio, and we have since embarked on a campaign to find more sponsors. See below.

UPDATES FROM OUR MANAGER AND DEPUTY

Our manager Mr Natai has sent the following:

Dear Friends of Let them shine, I greet you very much. I also thank you very much for the good and historic work you are doing to help children from poor households through Let Them Shine.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication to your Tanzanian brothers. Since the charity started helping us there is a great achievement that we can be proud of. This year there are two children who will complete their primary education and join secondary education. This is a step very big, so I congratulate you very much.

Employees also benefit because through the Let Them Shine they can support their families and improve their lives.

The importance of Let Them Shine has not only become apparent to us, but even the community around us are enjoying what you are doing (they called you good samaritans).

Personally I am very grateful to all who support Let Them Shine, also the parents and guardians of the sponsored children are very grateful and we wish them a long and successful life.

Our deputy Ester adds:

In primary schools there are a total of 33 sponsored children. They are in different classes from first to seventh grade.

Madina Yami of Lukani Primary School and Stella Loken of Nsongoro Primary School are expected to sit for the national primary school leaving examinations in September this year. If they pass their exams in 2023 they will go to secondary school. There are also those who will be taking the national examinations for the fifth grade.

SPONSORSHIP

In the last newsletter we recognised the need to find new sponsors. We recently launched a campaign with the help of friends and although it is still very much work in progress we have ten more sponsors for new children at the Centre.

We are helping some incredibly poor children who were living in terrible conditions. Only one of them had both parents around and some are orphans living with relatives. It's very common for a child to be abandoned.

This is a great start to increasing the number of sponsors and by bringing in a few wonderful friends who are willing to help, our network of support is expanding. But we could really do with another ten or so sponsors meaning around 20 children registered at the Centre. Please get in touch if you can help.

Who are we helping? Pictured aside and below is Jordan Macha. He is 4 years old and lives with his grandmother and grandfather. He father disappeared before he was born – Ester wrote 'his father not accept him from the womb and the mother abandoned him to grandparents'.





You can see the conditions he's living in - poor nutrition, housing, hygiene, clothing, healthcare. This young boy has started at the Centre and his life has been transformed. He has a new uniform, shoes, casual clothes, school bag, books and so on. He's well fed every day and is enjoying learning a preschool curriculum with his new friends.

Jordan is very typical of the very many children in need of help. And it's thanks to the kindness of our sponsors and supporters (and cyclists of course) that we can do what we are doing. We never take our sponsors for granted. Without them Let Them Shine would not operate. Thank you everyone!

COVID in Tanzania

Covid hit Tanzania much like everywhere else. However, managing the outbreak was impossible as there were no rapid tests freely available and PCR tests taken locally are driven 600 kms to Dar es Salaam. Face masks were mandatory at one point and all schools were closed. During a visit in February Omicron was endemic, but people were going about their business as usual. Now you no longer need a PCR test to get into the country and it looks like things are getting back to normal.

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. Just over half is spent on salaries with the remainder on food, water & electricity, primary school expenses (lunch, books, pens, uniforms etc.) We are running a tight ship and to repeat their phrase 'we share the bread'.

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