

Newsletter No. 9 December 2012

Nurturing future generations



Vegetable plots at Manzana Primary School - fenced by The SCT, water butts provided by Bacon's College.

Manzana School is on the edge of the lowveldt where rains are unreliable. The soil is poor so farming is precarious. Typical of the schools we support, Manzana has received funding for projects like classroom roofing, we sponsor 17 orphans there.

Ntombikayisa, pictured centre back, is a single orphan. She lives with her mother, brother and 2 sisters in her step father's family home. She is in grade 7 and hopes to go to High School next year. It is a 12km walk away; there is a bus service but at 50p a day it's more than the family can afford. The SCT manager will try to ensure that she gets the wherewithal to attend. Ntombi will have completed her primary schooling thanks to Bacons College teacher, Sue Stratton.



Ntombikayisa with the other children supported by the SCT at Manzana.



New orphan at Manzana

Temalangeni is 8 years old. A single orphan, her mother remarried so the child is now living with her maternal grandmother who has 10 other children in her care. Temalangeni is in Grade 1.

Meeting my child



Aksinia with Phatsisiwe

“I feel very lucky to have been to Swaziland and visited Phatsisiwe. I know how rare it is for a sponsor to meet the child who benefits from their help. Both of us were amazed and rather overwhelmed to meet one another. It was an emotional moment for me to hear her talk about her life and her family. It is hard for us to comprehend how that small yearly donation can have such a life changing impact. Meeting her was hugely rewarding, I will not forget when tears got the better of me and she put her arm round my waist. It is certainly true that in giving we receive”

Phatsisiwe is studying Form 1 at Ndunayithini High School in the heart of the lowveldt. The area has low and erratic rainfall and very hot summers. The soils are mainly fertile but with no irrigation only the most drought resistant crops can be relied on. With irrigation, tropical crops can be grown in the summer and temperate ones in the winter. Malaria used to limit human habitation so the area was used for winter grazing. Now pressure on the grazing is increasing and most seasons, winter forage runs out before the rains return.

Phatsisiwe lives with her parents near the school. The family have no livestock, they grow maize, pumpkins and emajoti, a savoury melon. Her father has a very poorly paid job guarding the primary school. He is in poor health following a serious injury at work. Phatsisiwe is the fourth of eight children. She likes English and science and wants to be a nurse.

Swaziland Charitable Trust

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Edinburgh University thanked for classrooms



Geordie receives a token of thanks from Hhohho AME head teacher, Mavis Mazibuko

Geordie McDonaugh, instrumental in raising money through the Edinburgh University fashion show, visited the school to see the classroom built with the proceeds.

New kitchen planned for Ndunayithini

Geordie and Aksinia, shocked at the state of Ndunayithini High School's rudimentary kitchen, hope to organise a sponsored cycle ride in France in 2013 to raise the money to build a better one. The kitchen provides food for over 400 students.



Queuing for lunch at Ndunayithini High School

Bacons Christmas Appeal

In November 2011 Bacon's College held its final launch assembly to raise funds for the children and young people of Swaziland and to celebrate the partnership and bonds that link their South East London School with St Francis School Mbabane. The 2011 appeal raised £7,071.



Our 6th form in fancy dress – we call this Mufti Day and normally raise £1500 on days like these!

The assembly began with these words:

Sometimes we look and do not see
Sometimes we touch and do not feel
Sometimes we are moved and do not cry
Sometimes we need to listen with our hearts
For they tell us so much
Sometimes we need the courage to
Believe what at first seems impossible



Ned Frost, left, visited Swaziland in the summer of 2011, dressed here as Where's Wally

Ned Frost, the 6th Form student who visited Swaziland on his own in 2011 reminded the assembly of the diary of Bacon's involvement:

In 2006, our current Year 12 & 13 Sixth Form students were in Years 7 & 8 respectively. I was in Year 8. We raised £8,550 to build a new library in St Francis School, the first ever in the school. We started to sponsor Swazi orphans.

In 2007 the sponsorship scheme was well underway and our total of sponsored orphans had reached 20 in number. I was in Year 9. We raised £8,300. Uniforms and shoes were bought for our orphans as well as paying primary school fees.

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Members of the lower school raising money in one of many cake sales

In 2008, our perspective of Swaziland changed forever. The reason was that four of our own Year 12 students had made the journey to Swaziland themselves, sponsored by the College Governors to help in a practical way by painting Hhohho Primary School. I was in Year 10. We raised £8,150. Our sponsored children increased in number and water butts were bought for Manzana primary school – classroom roofs were built for St Benedict's school.

In 2009 another four Sixth Form students made the same journey – this time they helped by doing a

makeover of a Grade 7 primary classroom – they were planning for the future, as we now sponsored 47 orphans and the majority of these were still in primary school but needed funds to progress to a secondary education. I was in Year 11. We raised £8,055 and plans began to be made for the St Francis trip. We provided maths resources for primary schools and built another primary school roof. Three of our primary sponsored children went to Secondary School.

In 2010, the choir of St Francis made the journey to London from Swaziland. I was in Year 12. I shared our 6th form life with my buddy Caesar Bhembe and the 6th Form sang with the choir and the whole college was so moved and inspired that everyone in the hall all rose to their feet and clapped. The choir inspired so many people across the UK and over £7,000 was raised in total.

In the summer of 2011, I flew to Johannesburg and then took the tiny plane to Manzini. I was really scared as I hadn't ever been on a long haul flight. I was literally biting my nails and couldn't sleep. When I first set foot in Swaziland I was overwhelmed, by the landscape, the people on the roadsides selling their goods, the different lifestyle.

On my visit I travelled to St Francis. I was welcomed with open arms, reconnecting with many old friends. I was staying with my buddy Bhembe. They sang in the open air for their assembly having no hall at all and no classroom big enough. I was astounded by how hard-working everybody was.

I experienced the effects of Aids in Hope House, the specialist hospice with the toddlers and children too sick to move with the virus. I also went to the Orphanages looking after the children who had lost fathers and mothers to the disease and the hospitals full to the brim trying to deal with such an epidemic.

The impact of the virus really hit me with its effect on everyday life. HIV forms the centre of all the SiSwati soaps, it is the front page of the local newspapers, prevention adverts are on 70% of advertising boards, it has caused a massive change in the country's demography.

The whole experience was life-changing. I now sponsor my own orphan and feel so proud of the £40,000 that was raised by all the staff and students of Bacons' during my career there. Carry on believing Bacon's.....

Meet Mphumuzi



Supported by Martin Winter, Mphumuzi is in his last year of high school

Mphumuzi is a double orphan supported for the last six years by Martin Winter Vice-Principal of Bacon's College, Rotherhithe. He graduated from Ekutsimleni Primary School to St Florence High then Lamawandla High in central Swaziland near Luve. He moved to Lusoti High School last year when his brother secured a job with accommodation at Simunye, a company town serving the lowveldt sugar estates.

He was born on Christmas day in 1992 and is now in his final year. He enjoys agriculture, computer studies, maths and economics and hopes to become a vet. Though he was very modest about it, he is captain of the volleyball team. His team is second in the region with the expectation that they would be number one by the end of the year.

Mphumuzi's parents died in 2003 leaving his maternal grandparents to look after him and fourteen other grandchildren. He is one of five siblings and his two sisters are still at school. Mphumuzi was fortunate to have an uncle only 7 years his senior who was willing to give him a home and support him after his grandfather died.

We asked Mphumuzi how he felt the Swaziland Charitable Trust had changed his life. He said it has enabled him to stay at school whilst his two brothers had been forced to drop out and are now unemployed.

Donations

We are extremely grateful to the following for their generous support:

Walter Riddell for his grant enabling us to build and equip a computer unit at Hhohho AME primary school in memory of his father, Chairman of the SCT in the 1970s.

The David Wills Trust and the Benyon Trust. These monies have gone to supporting orphans at High School.

We are the lucky recipients, for the second time, of the proceeds from the Luxembourg Christmas Bazaar. Their previous donation educated Nhlanhla Mahlalela. These new monies will also be put towards a students' secondary education.

The Norwegian Independent Meat and Poultry Association.

Projects

Sustainable agriculture with Guba

Guba, meaning to **dig** in SiSwati, has been generously supported by the Bryan Guinness Memorial Trust. Guba aims to alleviate poverty by teaching improved methods of food production, water and soil management and encouraging biodiversity.



Left: Converting organic waste into concentrated liquid fertiliser – Manager Sam Hodgson explains how worm baths work.

Top right: Selecting the best varieties of seed for home production.

Bottom right: The nursery – designed to survive high winds.



Staff housing at Antioch



Thanks to a grant from The Trusthouse Foundation, the roof on housing for teachers at Antioch Primary School was completed. The school is in a poor area and staff housing ensures that the school keeps the best teachers. The SCT supports seven orphans there.

Completed staff housing at Antioch Primary School

Vocational training at Siteki High School for the Deaf



The SCT donated sewing machines to this school.

Swaziland chairman Rowan Howe and our new manager Phindile Ndabandaba join students in a home economics class.





New Swazi Board Member: Kim Roques

Kim is the Founder and Director of All Out Africa. He grew up in rural Swaziland and attained his MSc in Conservation & Ecology. Before starting All Out Africa in 2004 he spent 7 years working on various conservation and community development programmes in Swaziland. Kim's professional interest is in developing sustainable entrepreneurial solutions for conservation and community development in Africa. His personal interests include his family, sport, wildlife, travel and people.



New Trustee: John Loder

John Loder presently works at the Young Foundation, a think tank focused on innovative solutions to social problems. He works with a range of charities, social enterprises and public sector institutions to help them find and implement effective new approaches in areas such as health, youth unemployment and housing.

Previous to that he spent 8 years working in the city in a variety of roles, latterly as founding partner of investment fund Corin Capital.

John has strong family connections to Africa and the Swaziland Charitable Trust, and has been a frequent visitor to Southern Africa over many years.

How you can help



Give as you Live™

We are so very grateful to all those who have sponsored students over the years. To make it easy for those of you who prefer digital ways of giving we have signed up to *Just Text Giving* and to *Give as you Live*, where thousands of stores will donate money to us every time you shop online.



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