



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2011

“While my heart beats, I have to do what I think I can do - and that is to help those who are less fortunate” Sean Devereux



The Fund provides aid to African children in need, for projects that offer self-sufficiency and are sustainable in the longer term. The Fund is managed by volunteers to ensure that the projects receive the total benefit from all fund-raising. Sean's commitment to humanity inspires supporters to continue the work he started and encourages others to be generous.

Dear friends and supporters

We have had another very successful year fund raising and sponsoring various projects in some of the poorest parts of Africa. Not only have we been able to continue supporting our long term projects, we have responded to short term emergencies in Somalia and Tanzania.

We received a letter of thanks in response to one request and Sr Kate's words so eloquently reflect the impact of your generosity:

“You will be thrilled to know the CD4 machine arrived last Friday and is now installed and working well. We have already tested 40 patients. It is so amazing and the difference it will make to our care will be unbelievable.

You have heard I am sure the saying that “it was and never will be about the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away” I think for me receiving that machine was a moment that took my breath away. I know I am privileged to be a missionary and to work here in Tanzania and what a privilege it is to have people like you and your friends who make it possible for our dreams to come true. I don't know how to thank you but knowing that so many people will benefit from your generosity is gratitude in itself.”

On behalf of The Trustees, I thank you sincerely for your continuing support

Maureen Devereux

Sean Devereux Human Right Organization (SEDHURO)

We received a request from Dahir Ali, who runs the Sean Devereux Human Right Organization (SEDHURO) in Somalia for funds to support those in need of humanitarian aid.

We were able to respond rapidly to this request, after establishing a safe route to ensure the funds would get through to the people in Dollo.

Dahir writes: “The people of Somalia are not strangers to adversity, in the past twenty years they have suffered the effects of civil war and successive droughts that have driven millions out of their homes but now a deadly combination of the dry spell, violent conflicts, and high



food prices is pushing to the very brim. The children are dying in numbers due to malnutrition and lack of health facilities within their reach.”

“When the children and women come SEDHURO distributed supple-

mentary food like beans, rice, powdered milk, nutritious biscuits, general soap, and vegetable oil to 450 households who were displaced by the drought and are made far more destitute. The one day food distribution on EID Day was supported by Sean Devereux Children's Fund-International organization based in UK.”

Donations

If you would like to make a donation to the Fund please log on to www.bmycharity.com/sdcf and follow the instructions. If you are a UK tax payer we can claim back 25% of every £1 you donate. If you prefer, we are still very happy to accept cheques. Thank you for your continued support.

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Sierra-Leone: Africa Child Summer Camps

Feed the Children, UK

We have worked in partnership with Feed the Children UK for a number of years, sending containers to Liberia and Tanzania. A container, filled with aid and goods for Ivory Coast refugees in Liberia and existing SDCF projects be sent by Christmas.

Feed the Children UK visited Liberia in April and aim to expand on the positive work of sending containers of aid to Liberia, by funding, monitoring and managing other projects.

The Sean Devereux Children's Fund is delighted to be able to work with Feed the Children UK.

Monitoring projects

The SDCF monitors existing projects via local co-ordinators who send regular updates and ensure that any funds are being used appropriately. Trustee visits to Ghana and Liberia are planned for early 2012.

The letter below was received from Fr. Harry O'Brien. The SDCF received a project proposal to fund this special summer camp in Lungi, August 2011.

Dear Friends,

The children's summer camp took place during the first three weeks of August. Once again it was very successful, so our sincere thanks go to God first of all and then to our sponsors, Sean Devereux fund in the United Kingdom.

The number of children catered for were one hundred and twenty from the upper classes of primary school. One good meal was provided each day.

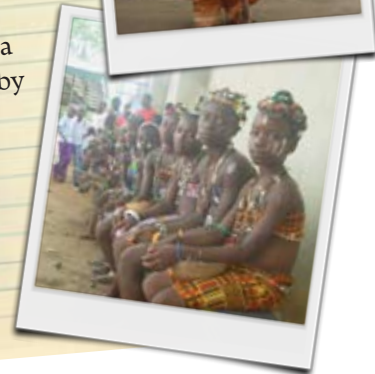
Being the raining season, we had a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities. There were inter groups competitions, drama, biblical movies, outings and games on the beach, dancing competitions, catechism and good manners classes, marshal and arts etc.

On the last day of the camp, there was a special entertainment programme giving by the children.

Thanks for all your kindness and may the Lord reward your generosity.

Yours Sincerely,

Fr. Harry O'Brien.



Return to Tanzania

By Alan Lion

At the start of 2011, two trustees returned to Tanzania to review SDCF projects. The first stop was in the Southern Highlands of the country where the fund has been providing much needed support to a number of schools, orphanages and to the local people. Incredible progress has been made: The Don Bosco Seminary school which has benefitted from considerable help was placed 1st out of 790 schools in the National Examinations in 2010. The dormitories and toilets at the school, have now been completely renovated. The contents of a container, which arrived in the middle of 2010, were evident not only in the schools and orphanages, but also in the local town. Even the local chickens had benefitted – the students had used blankets from the container to keep them from dying from cold!

The trustees went from the Southern Highlands to the hot and arid conditions of the Shinyanga region. The main projects in this region involve a large secondary school and a local clinic run by sisters. The five



This is the local church choir – dressed up in some of the contents of the container.

weeks teaching and generally helping were filled with highs and lows. It is impossible not to forget the joy and thanks of the school, its students and of the sisters for the help that they have all received from the fund.

It is for the joyful and the tearful moments that we need to be alongside people. So many thanks to everybody who has contributed so much to help the people of Tanzania.

Dodi Island: Ghana update

By Suzanne Lambert

After the success of the health education project in December 2010, a proposal was received to obtain funds to build a school on the island. This would also contain a small health clinic where visiting professionals could distribute advice and medicines and a tourist office to generate income and help the sustainability of the project.

Wisdom Ekiessi has single handedly made this project work, through a commitment to change the lives of local people and he is an inspiration to other leaders in African countries. Building the school has not been easy: heavy rains and a very high water level in the Lake make transporting building materials by small canoes, across the Volta challenging. Many local people lose their lives

each year as the canoes lack stability and they cannot swim. Due to your generosity we have been able to purchase life jackets to make these journeys less precarious.

Dodi Island residents have helped to build the school, along with a team of young people who are part of a youth group from Amedzofe. The Sean Devereux Fund will continue to work with the local people and provide support to enable the inhabitants of Dodi Island access to education and health care and build partnerships with both the Ghanaian health and Education Authorities.

We would like to thank Wisdom for his fortitude and leadership and to the supporters of the Fund who have made this project possible.

Please visit the website to see more pictures.



January 2011: Workers make the trip to the Island to start work on the school



March 2011: Progress with the foundations



June 2011: Women bring water to help mix the cement



September 2011: We are up to the roof!!

Fundraising update

People kindly donated their time and energy to raise funds for The Sean Devereux Children's Fund. Some of the events that took place in 2011 included:

- Coast to coast cycle
- Sally's Breakfast 2 Live
- Suzanne's Curry evening
- Lunch at the Lions
- Football match: CSC vs Symantec

You too can organise an event... its easy with BMYCHARITY. Just go to the website and follow the link. It is more than just fundraising, it is the community giving and sharing.

Breakfast 2 Live

It's hard to believe that it is 9 months since we ran the Breakfast 2 Live event at Bisley Village Hall and we are constantly being asked when the next one will be! It was a fabulous morning with volunteers working

their socks off cooking endless bacon sarnies and Sally trying not to mess the orders up too much.

The event was to raise funds for Sean Devereux and Feed the Children but we also invited other organisations who wanted to take the opportunity to raise funds for their own causes which was a great success. Visitors could browse stalls whilst waiting for their breakfasts and then sit and chat with friends, neighbours and complete strangers.

The event raised over £350 for Sean Devereux and Feed the Children.

Supporters reception: East Berks Golf Club Friday 8th April

An evening was held in April to thank the many people who have supported the Fund over the years. It was a chance to catch up with fellow supporters, find out how and where the

money has been spent and to hear about future projects. Our thanks to Kevin O'Farrell for his superb organisation, The Salesian College Farnborough for donating funds to support the evening, the East Berks Golf club for the excellent venue and Maureen and her team of helpers for the thought provoking displays and Sean Devereux Fund information.

The fund values the contribution of all our supporters and the trust and faith you have to keep on supporting the work in Africa.

Some of the events planned for next year include:

- A Golf day at the Sean Devereux memorial park
- Some intrepid runners in various parts of the UK
- A sponsored canoe trip along the River Wye

Liberia project updates

Looking back on the past 12 months it is heartening to see what the projects are managing to achieve despite the constant shortage of skilled resources, equipment, food, transportation, communication and the lack of promised Government funding. We are so grateful for all the support given by so many to help the children of Liberia have the chance of a future.

Tappita

In January the Liberian president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, officially launched the opening of the Sean Devereux Vocational Training school and promised to help the school form part of the national budget allocation. Unfortunately, despite repeated communication and lobbying the financial support has not been realised.

The team are not defeated by this and are running courses in carpentry, auto mechanics, welding, masonry, agriculture and sewing. Thanks to the support of the Fund, a used car engine for the auto mechanics department as well as an oxygen tank and welding machine for the welding department have been purchased. Hopefully, support from the Liberian government will be forthcoming soon.

Sean Devereux Children's Education and Agriculture Program

Amadu and his team have made some real achievements in the past year despite the continuing struggle for funding from the Liberian Government. Three teachers at the school attended formal training provided by the Ministry of Educa-



tion but the School are still waiting for their salaries to be paid.

In the past year the Fund has paid for the building and equipping of a large auditorium for use by the school and the community recreation and entertainment. Within the school programme inter-class academic and sports competitions have been established with the students being divided into Houses which was a great success.

An African costume day activities in May encouraged fellowship between the teachers, pupils and their families. The day was celebrated with participants wearing traditional Liberian attires such as country gowns, lappas, slippers, hats, beads, etc.

Sites have been selected in the area focusing on swamp development for rice and vegetable production. The development of agriculture is a key employment and self-sustainability area and young people are encouraged to participate in the project as a means of creating long-term job opportunities.

Internet Cafe

The internet café is now established and has enabled students to complete their studies and provided a key resource to the community.

Volunteers of Sean

This group supports the work of the Fund in the area of academic scholarships, human rights awareness and micro loans. The Fund supports 280 students in the Monrovia area.

Goods from the containers are given to students as prizes for academic achievement.

Over 200 students benefitted from the Human Rights Awareness project this year. They form clubs and meet to discuss issues in their communities whilst creating awareness on basic human rights issues such as child protection, education for all, etc.

What the Fund means to me: Sally Housham, Trustee

Being involved with the Fund has given me the opportunity to:

- work with an amazing and diverse group of people as a Trustee
- learn about some of the issues around poverty
- gain insight into the world of NGOs and aid organisations
- visit Liberia and make new friends
- understand the complexities of running a charity
- meet some fantastic supporters of the Fund and other organisations who all pull together for one common aim
- appreciate all that I have and all that I am
- be a valued and appreciated supporter
- live Sean's motto of "While my heart beats...." make a difference

For all of the above I am really grateful and, if any of you reading this are thinking of volunteering, stop thinking and just do it! You will reap far more than you sow.

Child sponsorships

The Fund educates 200 children in Liberia every year. These children come from very poor backgrounds including street children and orphans. The chance of an education for most children in Liberia is a dream come true. We need your help to continue this work and will be establishing a sponsorship programme. We will keep you posted, but for further information contact info@seandevereux.org.uk