



Friends of Double Joy

Registered Charity No 1087172

**Double Joy
Children's Farm**

giving vulnerable children a home and education in Kenya

Newsletter Summer 2023

Dear friends of Double Joy

It's now 12 years since I visited Double Joy, travelling out with a very dear friend and fellow member of Sheffield Quaker Meeting, Mary Myers. We had two wonderful weeks there together before Mary returned home and I stayed on for a further two weeks. I found the whole visit a humbling but inspiring time and look back on it with great joy. I'm also thrilled to know that the shopping bag project that I set up is still continuing to raise funds so many years later!

I also find it very heartening as I compile each new Newsletter, to learn of the changes and developments that are constantly being made at Double Joy, improving the quality of life for all the residents, both children and staff. Many of these have been funded by you, the Friends of Double Joy.

I feel that the reports of recent visits by Mary Hinde's two daughters, Chrissie and Sue, with their comments and observations, should take pride of place in this newsletter, as they have been making regular visits to DJ since its earliest years. This photo illustrates beautifully Mary's delight at having both her daughters visit her once again.



L-R Chrissie and Mary Hinde, visiting Priest, Sue Hilliard

Hilary Hall, Newsletter Editor

Chrissie Hinde's visit to Double Joy 1 to 28th February 2023

It was so good to finally visit Double Joy after 4 years and see Mum and all the staff and children. We celebrated Mum's 85th birthday with the children singing 'Happy Birthday' with great gusto; a truly joyful event.

Mum is now less mobile, using a wheelchair for moving any distance and has less energy. She is naturally handing over her duties and giving others experience of how they can carry on the work. She provides guidance and encouragement and her counsel is actively sought and appreciated.

Mum says she intends to be buried at Double Joy. Cultural belief here is that her spirit will therefore remain powerfully present. This a source of great comfort and reassurance to all at Double Joy (especially Mum). Despite the inevitable frustrations of ageing Mum spoke of how blessed she feels to be so well loved and cared for by everyone here.

I went to view the new solar lighting, water tanks and biogas in action. The biogas will be especially useful in future as the government plan to ban wood burning stoves in institutions to preserve precious trees and reduce the environmental impact of carbon emissions.

I was also fortunate enough to meet some of the children, who have now left, who said what a great launching pad for adult life Double Joy was in providing a secure and loving place to grow up. I also got the distinct impression the staff feel a strong sense of belonging to the Double Joy family and that this has enriched their lives too.

Poverty persists in the community and inflation is high causing great hardship and agonising dilemmas between providing food, school fees and healthcare. I found parents often prioritised paying school fees in the hope this will secure the future for their families.

The décor of the children's houses at Double Joy was looking somewhat run down and in need of some refurbishment. Therefore we have since sent funds to repair leaky roofs and rotting door frames and repaint etc. The solar lighting for the children's houses was old and needed upgrading so funds have been sent for that too.

While I was at DJ they began renting a neighbour's field and planted a maize crop which is now about 5 foot high! Some DJ children are also now rearing chickens for the eggs. Our maize (sweet corn), was planted in February for harvesting in June.

Overall I got a strong reminder of the cheerful daily life and nurturing Double Joy provides for its children's futures and am proud and grateful to you for supporting it so generously. Thank you all so much.

Don't forget to visit the [Double Joy website](http://www.double-joy.org.uk) - www.double-joy.org.uk for latest news and more photos!

Sue Hilliard's visit to Double Joy, February 2023

After a 3 year absence, I arrived at Double Joy with my sister Chrissie, on February 1st, returning alone 10 days later to fulfil work commitments.

Together we visited nearby Dagamoyo and Ruma Primary Schools, which the children attend nowadays. Both schools are within easy walking distance of Double Joy and we took some footballs as gifts, which were very gratefully received.

We were shown a rather impressive science laboratory at the (next-door) Ruma Secondary School which was part of the new Junior Secondary education scheme. We witnessed the Double Joy children moving up to their new classes, in their smart new school uniforms. (The Double Joy children, except for the Nursery Class, were at school during the day.)

The weather was hot, dry and windy at times. The local people were planting crops and waiting for rain. This was my first visit of no rain. We went to the local market at Aram to buy brightly coloured cotton material for making shopping bags, which we then sell in England to raise money for Double Joy.

Overall it was a joy to see Mum again and celebrate her birthday with her. Despite tiring easily and her declining health, she seemed cheerful and to be enjoying life. It was also very good to meet the Double Joy staff and children, and to see them go about their day to day activities.



Mary Hinde 4 February 2023 - looking good! (Ed)

Children celebrating Mary's birthday



Manager's Report

We were very pleased to be visited by Sue and Chrissie, Mary Hinde's daughters, in February and together we celebrated Mary's 85th birthday.

In March we also had a welcome visit from the Judge and some staff from the nearby Madiany/Bondo Law Courts who made a donation, planted some trees and took lunch with the children.

Of the 78 children living on site, 73 (35 of whom are in the new Junior Secondary bracket) attend 2 local primary schools, walking in daily. Five Nursery age children stay on site for daily learning activities.

In November 2023 there will be 20 leaving for secondary level education, some of whom will need sponsors if they are to go on to boarding school/college over the next 3-4 years.

We currently have 48 students; 5 students supported at Vitech Training Institute as boarders and a further 29 students living in boarding secondary schools. 14 students attend day Secondary Schools near their family home where their progress is monitored by our visiting outreach staff team.

The health of most of our children has been good, though one of our girls needed an operation in June costing 200,000 Shillings (about £1,170).

We recently put up a new fence in front of the children's dormitory block and renewed the old corrugated iron roofing sheets on it. A pail of sand is now installed in each separate house for fire safety in addition to the existing fire extinguishers at the fire assembly point. We have installed improved night security solar lighting and are upgrading the lighting in the children houses. We next intend re-roofing the Sick Bay and Masterman (assembly) Hall.

The Committee which was formed is very active and working very well and they give counselling to our children and staff. We regularly update our Risk Assessments and Records of accidents/incidents and are developing Safeguarding Policies with Friends of Double Joy who are accountable for this in the UK.

The children now own 48 chickens and we rent 1 acre of land and we planted maize, which is very healthy, and expect a good harvest in June.

Peter Atin, Manager

Life in Double Joy

My life at home compared to the one at Double Joy. I am Carol, I am in standard 8 and I want to be a nurse.

When I was a little girl my life at home was not very good because I used to face some problems when my father and mother died and left us very lonely. I was left with my grandparents who were very old and were not able to take good care of us. By that time I was able to do some things like dress myself and do some housework. My grandfather could not even walk far and we struggled to live but the Father in heaven kept us safe and we stayed happy with our family.

Sometimes it was very difficult with very little to eat; we just took the little we got and shared it.

But when I came to Double Joy I found life flowing smoothly with enough food to eat 3 times every day, school uniform, new friends to play with and get treatment when I am sick. I am very happy to be here where I have somebody to take care of me. I am going for my birthday present money (about Ksh.1,700 = £10) to spend on clothes. I like the second hand clothes market in Bondo.

Double Joy is a lovely home to live in and I thank the Lord for his mercy and a chance to live here. THANK YOU.

Some notes from Eric Roseden

Now in its 28th year, Double Joy Children's Farm, continues to adapt its role of caring for children whose life situations have left them potentially vulnerable.

From its beginnings as home for orphans bereaved by the death of parents from Aids/HIV, Double Joy has also become a place of safety for children with other complex support needs too, at the request of the County Children's Department.

In Western Kenya, Double Joy is held up as a first rate example of nurturing children in care.

In recent years DJ has increasingly integrated with the local community by sending children to local schools while widening its earlier brief by taking children from degraded home situations to give them a stable home and better opportunities for higher education and better standards of healthcare.

As well as 78 on-site children, Friends of Double Joy supports, through individual sponsorship, 48 late teens through a further education programme at either vocational college or secondary school. **We need 20 new sponsors**, (about £400 per youngster/year for 3-4 years until course is complete). **Please get in touch if it could be for you** .

email: Doublejoysponsorship@gmail.com



Bondo Law Court visiting Judge plants a tree

14 secondary-age children stay with their relatives, attending day school, with pastoral support by outreach staff from DJ.

Moving on from the institutional model, DJ strives to provide homely support and opportunities for its children with closer community links.

Providing employment opportunities in an area with mostly rural subsistence farming, DJ also supports the local economy by buying local produce in Aram Market, 2 km away, digging water holes for communal use, transporting sick people for medical care, delivering exam papers and cooperating with other projects to benefit everyone in the locality.

In line with government policy DJ is eliminating its dependence on firewood for cooking, using a biogas system (manure fuelled) as well as LED solar lighting. A safe drinking water borehole is planned in collaboration with SHAREAfrica and local Round Table partners.

In mid 2022 DJ sold their van and began hiring vehicles for twice monthly shopping for supplies, reducing costs while supporting local business.

Since 2002, (UK Charity no. 1087172) Friends of Double Joy (FoDJ) has grown to become the major funder of Double Joy and it is your kindness and generosity that has made all of this possible. We and the trustees/management of DJ and the children and staff (past and present)

are very grateful and proud of all that has and is being made possible because of it.

Above all this Double Joy has given, and continues to give, a stable nurturing home full of love and joy, to countless children to set them up as good citizens of a youthful, modern Kenya with a strong moral sense of integrity and family values.

Thank you, each and every one, a thousandfold.



Maize (sweet corn) planted in February, ready in June

Treasurer's Report

Our income for 2022 was £127,157. We sent Double Joy (for general running costs) £89,669 with £30,810 mostly earmarked for Secondary School and vocational training costs. A general break down of income for 2022 was £64,100.22 from general donations, £50,143 from Standing order donations, £1,855 from fundraising and specific ear mark giving £11,060. Our total costs in bank charges and administration was £965

The opening balance at beginning of 2023 was £20,372.

We used TransferWise to move money to Double Joy until August, then, due to unreliability, we changed back to using Swift transfers via the Co-operative Bank, which has worked well, transferring money twice a month. Every month £7,830 is sent to Double Joy for general running expenses. Extra payments of £1,300, were sent to repair solar lights and security for children's houses and £844 for insurance. We are sending £2,000 every month for Secondary and Vocational training costs.

Christmas cards and shopping bag sales have made about £400.

We have had several large donations this year, and our, nearly 200, Standing Order donors, account for about half our income.

If you would like to consider giving by Standing Order it would be most appreciated. If you are a UK tax payer please consider signing up to Gift Aid. We are able to claim back Gift Aid which provides about 20% of our income!

Thank you to all of you who have supported FoDJ, as we are the main donor to Double Joy, which continues to be needed as a safe place for children to grow up in this poor part of Kenya.

Sue Hilliard {Treasurer}.

Fund Raising

On Sunday 16th April Danny Porter of Manchester ran 13 miles and raised £581 for Double Joy, asking people to sponsor him as he passed his target of having run every single day (running streak) for 13 years! He intends to carry on daily runs to maintain this unbroken sequence. Thank you so much Danny. More power to your legs!

Speaking of long runs.... **Pauline and Rob Stannard** in Hull have been organising a FoDJ music fundraiser in Hull every October for 10 years (apart from the pandemic year 2020, when they and friends donated £1000).

Thank you very much to you, and everyone who helped you, for all your hard work and dedication.



Please send details of any of your own fundraising ideas and activities to Eric Roseden, for inclusion in the next Newsletter.

Donations by post for Double Joy should be sent to the Treasurer -

Mrs Susan Hilliard, 40 Downside Close, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7SD

Tel: (01258) 454415 e-mail: special_lily31@yahoo.co.uk

Cheques (UK only) should be made payable to 'Friends of Double Joy'

Bank details: The Co-operative Bank, Stockport, Sort Code 08-92-99, acc No. 65063707

Ready to print STANDING ORDER FORMS for making **regular donations to Double Joy** and Gift Aid Declaration forms, are available to download from the website. No gift is too small. (Ed)

Donate via the website: To give to Friends of Double Joy from anywhere in the world, by debit/credit card or JustGiving, go to www.double-joy.org.uk and press the purple 'Donate' button to contribute. If you struggle to negotiate this page, please contact Eric at doublejoy1994@gmail.com and he will do his best to help.

Friends of Double Joy (Reg Charity No 1087172)

supports Double Joy Children's Farm, a home and school for children orphaned by AIDS:

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