

Friends of Double Joy

Registered Charity No 1087172

Double Joy Children's Farm

giving vulnerable children a home and education in Kenya

Newsletter Winter 2021

Dear Friends of Double Joy

During these times of crisis and uncertainty it's heart-warming to know that, thanks to your support, Double Joy continues to provide not only a safe and welcoming home for very vulnerable children, but also to support them with further education and training as they grow towards adulthood.

New facilities are gradually making life more comfortable for all who live and work in DJ, and Mary Hinde, without whom DJ would never have come into being, is still taking an active interest in all their lives.

My very best wishes to them and to you all for a happy Christmas and a healthy and fulfilling year to follow.

Hilary Hall, Newsletter Editor



Manager's Report

I am really pleased to have this chance to express my gratitude, not just for myself, but the entire family of Double Joy Children's Farm, to you, our generous and committed donors. The children are looking strong, healthy and are proud of themselves. All our staff have been fully vaccinated against Covid 19.

Care is taken to ensure each child fulfils his or her academic potential. After completing their K C P E (primary school) examination in March, we discharged ten boys and four girls, each of whom went to live with carefully vetted relatives. In August they joined the Secondary Schools of their choice.

Following a Children's Department directive, we no longer recruit just orphan siblings. Now, any community member with concerns for vulnerable children can make a report to the Children's Office and action will follow. Eight new children were admitted under this new system. Committal of children into our care is a legal requirement. We have submitted all necessary paperwork for this and await the Children's Department making the required arrangements with a local children's magistrate. As well as covering the costs of maintaining our buildings, especially the rain harvesting system, Friends of Double Joy have enabled us to extend our solar lighting, to install a bio-gas plant for cooking the children's food and to renovate our maize mill with a new electric motor and new floor.

Each and all of these improvements are greatly appreciated and everyone at Double Joy is enjoying their benefits.

HUGE THANKS TO OUR DONORS. With great appreciation, *Peter Atin, Manager*



Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to Mary Stone who has been tirelessly fund-raising for Double Joy for many years, and who has now stepped down as Chair of the Trustees of Friends of Double Joy. Thank you Mary for your unerring devotion to Double Joy and for keeping the Trustees 'on track' during meetings!

Mary continues, however, to sell her **beautifully hand-crafted silver jewellery and cards** which are available to purchase from her at 27 Dallam Drive, Sandside, Cumbria LA7 7LL

Tel: 01539 563481

All proceeds are donated to Double Joy

Treasurer's Report.

FoDJ has been sending £7,500 every month to Double Joy, for running costs.

We have also sent £250 extra each month since August, circa a 10% staff pay increase, (inflation is about 6%) except in October when funds were insufficient.

The biogas system is now operational having cost £3,117 to install.

Griffin Law has given a grant of £900 for water tanks and Sheffield Round Walk raised £1,189, also used for water tanks and guttering.

From a £5,000 donation in August, £800 was spent on a new motor for the maize mill and £250 on renovating staff toilets. This donation was also used to sponsor a student through Secondary School and £1,175 put towards the biogas installation shortfall. The 'We Will Walk 1994 Miles' event raised £6,000. The solar grant money of £2,998 has been sent to Double Joy.

Car boot sales also started up in summer and raised £1,000.

So far this year, we have sent £18,720 to DJ for Secondary Education and hope to recruit an individual sponsor for each student attending secondary schooling or vocational training. Other extra expenses have been, £500 for 2 laptops and a £100 payment for Madame Emma, the outgoing teacher. Van repairs and running costs, and children's hospital bills cost £1,000 respectively.

We received £16,920 in Gift Aid in May which was a substantial boost to our coffers. We have 2 new regular donors and 4 standing orders were increased (thank you!). Standing order donations amount to c £4,500/month, so we are heavily reliant on one-off and occasional donations, all of which are much appreciated whether large or small. If anyone feels they could commit to becoming a monthly donor, it would be most welcome. There is a JustGiving donation button on the website for one-off donations (see page 4).

Once again thank you to everyone who has given, financially or with time and effort in the sponsored events which have taken place this year. Double Joy would not be able to continue without your support.

Merry Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

Sue Hilliard, Treasurer to Friends of Double Joy

New Biogas System to reduce the need for firewood

This summer Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust gave £2,000 towards an efficient biogas system. This was topped up by another generous donor to cover total costs of £3,175. This system was chosen after witnessing the 'Care for the Earth' a nearby community-based environmental centre's fully functioning Biogas system.

Construction involved digging a large round pit and erecting reinforced concrete walls of cement, topped by a PVC floating drum (the biodigester). The system is fuelled by dung from Double Joy's 3 cows, thus preserving valuable trees. Cooks are no longer exposed to harmful smoke in the kitchen. This saves around £40 per month while benefitting the environment.

Thomas Ojala shared this: 'In the morning Madam Rose Beatrice makes hot porridge for the children's breakfast before school. Then Madam Rebecca prepares the special diet meals. Evening meal consists of vegetables, meat, eggs, fish or even dagaa (whitebait). The night watch staff also prepare the dogs' supper on the stove. Most important is that using a gas stove instead of an open fire protects us all from exposure to toxic smoke from the kitchen'.



Pit for the biogas system

The stove being tested and used



An effective (and charge free) way to support Double Joy when shopping on line is through Easyfunding.

On your phone or tablet, using the Easyfunding app, you will be ported to your normal seller, eg Argos, Boots etc or on desktop computers simply visit

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

and choose Friends of Double Joy as your charity.

Amazon Smile give 0.5% of purchase price; half a penny for every pound you spend! Other sellers are usually much more generous.

We would like to recruit more secondary school sponsors.

The extreme conditions of poverty some of our children may have endured prior to DJ life are almost unimaginable to most of us.

Having lived in the area for 15 years before starting Double Joy, Mary Hinde understood the extent of suffering and deprivation of the most impoverished families. She therefore realised what was needed to avoid returning to the abject conditions they had previously suffered.

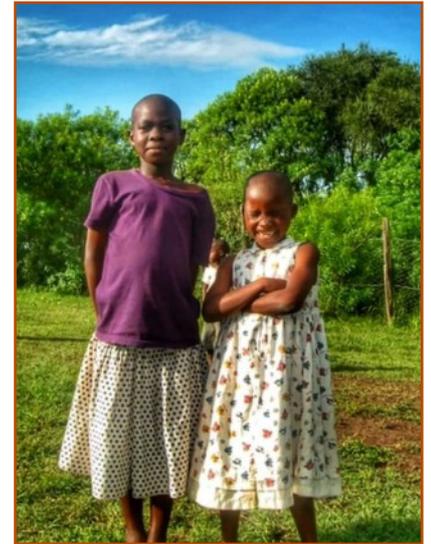
Over and above the security, 3 square-meals-a-day, education and social nurturing that growing up at Double Joy provides, is the chance to achieve secondary school or vocational qualifications to earn a wage (however small), combined with farming a small parcel of inherited land to establish survivable lives.

As well as 47 boys and 42 girls currently living at Double Joy, we also support a further 39 young people at boarding school/training college, and a young boy with visual impairment at a special school. Funding secondary education consumes about 20% (about £24,000) of our annual income and is essential to finishing the process of turning out well-rounded and self sufficient citizens.

We would like to recruit a sponsor for each of 28 of these young people who have moved out of Double Joy and are attending either secondary school or training college. This is a commitment of £550 per year, for each of 3 or 4 years depending on which course the person has chosen.

We are very grateful to the 11 supporters who have already agreed to sponsor someone and hope more of you will consider becoming a sponsor too.

If you could give a young person a fighting chance in life please get in touch with our Sponsor/child Co-ordinator Joanna at joannahossack1@gmail.com for details of how the process works.



Recycling bikes!

As well as selling donated items at several car-boot sales these past 2 summers I had also been given several bicycles. I serviced and sold these on our local Facebook selling site. This sideline has mushroomed and I have now sold 10 bikes this way and have 5 more to sell. I have also bought used bikes for £15 or less and sold them for between £10 and £80 each. I put into practice some of the skills I picked up myself while in the bicycle repair shop at Double Joy many years ago! *Eric*

Bike repair class at Double Joy

Kids bikes ready to sell



Solar lights for staff accommodation and offices

We were delighted to receive a further QPSW (Quaker Peace and Social Witness) Relief grant of £2,998 in October 2021 to supply up to date solar panels to the staff accommodation and offices at DJ. We wanted to build on the success of installing solar panels to the education block, the main hall, and the sick bay thanks to the QPSW grant we received in 2020..

Staff comments about these recently installed Solar Lights

'In Kenya we have dangerous snakes. Using the bathroom at night without light is quite risky; you can step on a snake! Solar light is essential when the mains power is down, especially when children are doing their homework. Most household chores stop when the power is off. Mostly we use our phone lights which cannot serve all the house!'

Thomas Ojala - Evening Activity Coordinator

'The light is very important. When there is a power cut we use a kerosene lamp or candle which is very inconvenient. Just imagine preparing lessons for the next day using a candle! The light isn't proper.'

Beth Achieng - Primary teacher



Nativity Scene Christmas cards for sale

designed for Double Joy by children and young people at Sheffield Quaker Meeting. 6 for £5, postage free (to UK addresses).

All profits to Double Joy.

To purchase contact Chrissie Hinde at chrissiehinde@ymail.com

Sheffield Round Walk Fundraising Challenge

Eight of us, and one dog, set out on 25th September to complete the 15 mile Sheffield Round Walk for Double Joy. It took us 10 hours to complete, with many refreshment breaks and lots of hills and was great fun, great company and for a great cause. We hoped to raise £500 and were thrilled to raise £1,189!

Thank you so much to all of you who supported us. As people have been so generous we can now buy a new water tank and fund roof and gutter



repairs, ensuring collecting rainwater from roofs works most efficiently. We're keen to protect Double Joy as much as possible from the worst effects of climate change. Water harvesting and storage play a really vital role in this.

Chrissie Hinde (*far right in photo*)



I couldn't resist squeezing in this photo which seems so full of the joys of life. (*Ed*)

If you have news of any fundraising activities please send your reports to Eric Roseden so that they can be included in the next edition of the newsletter. (*Ed*)

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, A/c 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*)

Donations via the website: To give to Friends of Double Joy go to

www.double-joy.org.uk go to the opening Home Page and press the purple JustGiving '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, which provides a safe and welcoming home and education for vulnerable children in Kenya
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