



# Friends of Double Joy

Double Joy  
Children's Farm  
Giving vulnerable children a home and education in Kenya

Registered Charity No 1087172

## Friends of Double Joy Newsletter: Winter 2025

### Letter from the Editor:

Seasons greetings! This edition of the newsletter includes not one but two inspirational individuals' stories for you to pour over and enjoy. We would like to pay tribute to Mary Stone, a fantastic fundraiser and staunch supporter of Double Joy and to also celebrate the success of Double Joy beneficiary, Clinton Ongidi who kindly shares his story with us.

***Krismasi Njema! (Merry Christmas in Swahili!)***

Lianne Hughes

### Fundraising News:

Fundraising continues to be crucial for Double Joy, as our Treasurer's Report highlights. Great thanks to Chrissie for organising a fun evening of live music and dance in Sheffield, hosting a cèilidh there in late November. Thanks also to The Gladly Solemn Sound, a Lancaster based choir whose unerring support over nearly two decades is greatly appreciated. As we look to the new year, new campaigns will soon be launched to support young people beyond their education at Double Joy— keep an eye on Facebook if you can! If you feel inspired to take on a challenge, host an event or put a talent to good use and would like to fundraise for Double Joy or simply share an idea, please get in touch using the contact details at the end of the newsletter.

### Sponsorship:

As ever, we are so grateful for our sponsors who cover the cost of the education, donating £400 per year. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, please

get in touch with Joanna Riley. Thank you for your continued to support.

Joanna Riley

[doublejoysponsorship@gmail.com](mailto:doublejoysponsorship@gmail.com)

### CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE:

As ever, the children and young people at Sheffield Quaker Meeting have been busy creating this year's Christmas card design. Pack of 5 for £5, (postage free to UK addresses). They might be perfect for hand delivering to your neighbours or putting away for next year! All profits to Double Joy.



To purchase contact  
Chrissie: 07726654001



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### Spotlight on Mary Stone:

Mary Stone was an exceptional woman, in every sense of the word. She was truly active when it came to championing the causes close to her heart and Double Joy were blessed with her support. Mary's faith and profession were key to understanding who Mary was. She was a Quaker, which guided her choices and actions. She had been a teacher, headteacher and teacher-trainer, not only teaching children but also developing teachers' abilities to deliver excellent religious education. Mary's affiliation with the charity was therefore natural, given her background in education and that she also spent part of her early teaching career in Kenya.

Mary had an impressive range of talents, which she set to work to raise thousands of pounds for Double Joy. She wrote inspirational cards using her calligraphy skills and crafted beautiful silver jewellery as part of her fundraising efforts. Furthermore, she wrote a children's book, **Jerry the Giraffe Grows Up**, with all proceeds going to the charity. Some receiving this newsletter will also remember with great fondness and warmth Mary's hospitality. Friends of Double Joy trustee meetings at Mary's house were followed by a hearty home-cooked lunch, often using home-grown ingredients. Mary derived much pleasure from creating both a beautiful and productive garden and would, no doubt, approve of Double Joy's success with their greenhouse and crop yields.

Mary's faith, values and indefatigable spirit shone through everything she did. She was an exceptional educator with the magic touch with children and a keen sense of humour, a devoted sister and an ardent friend; dearly missed by those lucky enough to be close to her.

May we all take something of Mary's spirit and story with us into 2026.

Lianne Hughes, editor & Hazel Nowell, a dear friend of Mary

### How to Donate:

To give to Friends of Double Joy from anywhere in the world go to **[www.double-joy.org.uk](http://www.double-joy.org.uk)** and **press the purple 'Donate' button** to find information on how you can donate. If you struggle to negotiate this page please contact Eric Roseden (details below). No gift is too small!

### Key Information:

Friends of Double Joy (Reg Charity No



**1087172**) supports Double Joy Children's Farm, giving vulnerable children a home and education in Kenya.

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[www.double-joy.org.uk](http://www.double-joy.org.uk)

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

**Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a happy and healthy 2026 from everyone at Double Joy!**





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## Carrying Double Joy Forward By Clinton Omondi Ongidi (Double Joy 2004-2011)



Saturday, November 11, 2004, will always stand out as one of the most defining moments of my life. Stepping through that green gate, welcomed by the joyful faces of children waiting to receive us in the hall, I felt a mix of emotions. I was sad to see my grandfather (now departed) leave us in a new environment, yet I was elated to see happy faces of children who seemed just like me. What first seemed like a strange new environment quickly became my home. From morning assemblies to evening prayers, and sharing supper together as a family, **Double Joy shaped my identity and gave me a sense of belonging.**

I completed my primary education in 2011 and proceeded to Rang'ala Boys' High School, where I successfully finished my secondary education. Later, I joined Chuka University to pursue a Bachelor of Commerce in Banking and Finance. I graduated in 2020 and was honored to be featured in the 2020 winter newsletter, which highlighted my journey.

Since completing my education, I can confidently attest that **the values instilled in**

**me at Double Joy have profoundly influenced my career and the choices I have made.** Beyond discipline, honesty, and hard work, living and learning alongside children from diverse families taught me empathy, resilience, and the importance of community. These lessons shaped not only my character but also my professional outlook.

Today, I work with businesses across Kenya, helping shape their success stories. In my role as an investment advisor, I support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by offering accounting and investment solutions, tax guidance, and financial projections. I see this work not just as a career, but as a calling to extend the same support and hope that Double Joy once gave me.

My decision to focus on SMEs was influenced by a report from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, which revealed that 46.3% of businesses close within their first year of operation, and 70% fail within the first three years. These numbers were more than statistics to me; they represented families losing livelihoods, dreams cut short, and communities left vulnerable. This alarming rate of failure motivated me to help entrepreneurs increase their chances of survival. **My goal has always been to bring a "double joy" to business owners by ensuring their ventures succeed.** I achieve this through services such as bookkeeping, tax preparation, audits, and financial forecasting, while also walking alongside entrepreneurs as a partner in their journey.

As I share my journey to inspire other children at the institution, **I remain forever grateful for the support I received from Double Joy,** under the stewardship of Madam Mary Hinde, the donors led by FODJ, and the dedicated staff led by Mr. Atin. My special gratitude also goes to John Jackson's family, who will soon commemorate the seventh anniversary of his passing. John Jackson was a pillar in my education; his sponsorship enabled me to complete both my secondary and tertiary studies. Their support has shaped my identity and empowered me to contribute positively to Kenya's growth and transformation.



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## The Manager's Report: (Photo: New solar pump in action!)



The children are doing well. 60 live on site, cared for by 25 staff in total. 16 new children arrived in November in direct replacement for the fifteen October leavers (7 boys and 9 girls, ages ranging from 4-10 years.) One new youngster needed critical treatment for a previous severe eye injury and now has an artificial replacement. 56 attend local primary schools (either Ruma or Dagamoyo). One boy attends special school for the Blind and two more attend the nearby Madiany Special School. Off site we continue support for 59 young people; six students at Vitech Training Institute as boarders, 29 at day Secondary Schools while living at home with family. They come to stay at Double Joy during school holidays. 20 students live in boarding (Secondary) schools. 2 learn at nearby Rarieda Training Institute (Rafiki Waendeleo).

In September, Boaz Adhiambo volunteered to sponsor the construction of green house shed in the institution. The green house was completed in October. We planted variety of vegetables that are consumed by the children; this has helped to cut cost on the vegetables. I am delighted to report that the greenhouse has been exceptionally

successful, with bumper crops of spinach and kale being produced. (Photo overleaf).

On 21st November, we celebrated Children Service Month which was organised by the Judiciary and Double Joy was the host. If you could sponsor one of our students we always need new donors. To learn more please contact Joanna Riley. Whatever we achieve is funded by you and once again, we thank you all for your vital support and kindness, without which we could not continue.

**Peter Atin, Manager**

## Treasurer's Report:

We continue to send £8,150 per month to Double Joy for general running expenses. The extra costs since May have been £1,000 for buildings and staff insurance, £710 for a hospital bill for a child who needed an operation and £30 for the bio gas repair. The other extra costs have been for Children in Secondary School and V-tech training.

We are receiving about £4,000 per month in regular standing order donations, we have had two new standing orders set up recently. Our 'Just Giving' donations amount to about £100 a month some of which are regular giving. Our one-off donations have varied in amount from £10 to £5,000, some of these have been due to fundraising by our supporters. As you can see, we rely on the one-off donations to top up the monthly amount we send to Double Joy. If anyone feels that they can give regularly or increase their regular giving, then it will help us to be able to budget more effectively.

Friends of Double and Double Joy are very grateful for all the support we receive from our donors, to enable us to continue to keep supporting us.

**Sue Hilliard, Treasurer**