

King George VI Centre

June to July Newsletter 2021

This newsletter should have come at the end of the 2nd term instead we have had no 2nd term. Our poor children have missed out on so much schooling! How will they ever catch up!

Lockdown

After the wonderful term they had, our children went home for a short holiday only to be locked down at home once again. One month later they are still at home and times are even tougher. We have not even managed to drop off food yet as the team that does this has been hit by COVID themselves. We pray they are all safe and hope to get food out in the first week of August.



On the left Samantha during Africa day celebrations last term. On the right Samantha at home during lockdown.

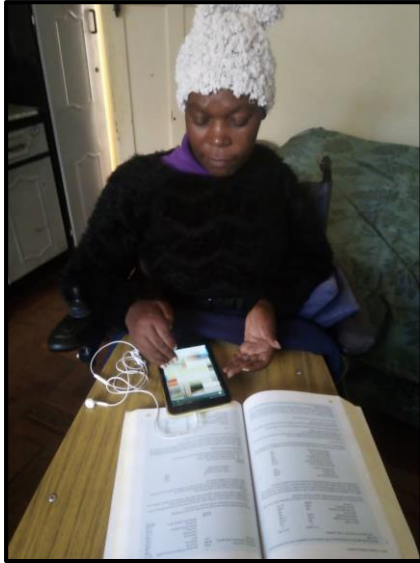
CURE hospital

So far four children have had operations at the new CURE hospital. Here is one of the little boys who had an operation this month (photo taken by phone). He will need therapy once the plaster is removed but what if lockdown is still in place!



COVID

Sadly the 3rd wave has hit Zimbabwe badly. This on top of a very cold few weeks has sent our numbers soaring. Even KGVI has not been immune and we had 3 staff test positive. We decided to close our gates for a few days and fumigate offices. Most staff were already locked down at home anyway. We pray for all those who are unwell at KGVI, in Zimbabwe and indeed all over the world. Our vaccination programme is slow with around 10% only having been vaccinated. This with the Chinese vaccines as this is all that is available to us. People are now keen to be vaccinated but we keep running out.



Courage preparing lessons from home and sending lessons via WhatsApp

Teaching

We have to keep thinking of new ways to help. Right now we are giving data to teachers who are able to prepare WhatsApp lessons for those children who have access to phones. The data is too expensive for our very poorly paid teachers to afford.

In fact even if lockdown is lifted teachers may not be able to afford the transport to come back to work! The average salary for a teacher is plus/minus USD 250 a month. Basic transport for a month will cost them USD 240!

Are you a parent of a child with a disability @ KGVI?
Worried your child drowning in their studies or falling behind?
Or if you are a pupil, need to talk to a teacher or counsellor?
COVID-19 and lockdowns stressful?
Got some health concerns?

Worry not!

Call the King George VI Help Hotline - FREE!

HOT LINE
0800 000 0000
CONFIDENTIAL

- Health
- Anxieties
- Physio Exercises
- Study Help

HelpLine

After many bureaucratic hurdles we managed to get our Helpline up and running. We are advertising this through social media and are already getting calls coming in. This is so crucial in these more than tough times.



This is our Care Cottage where children needing extra care after operations will be able to stay with a caregiver until they are able to go home. Thanks to the donors who made this facility possible. Hopefully we will be able to complete this soon.

Bursaries & Bus Fares

Thanks so much to those who have supported us with bursaries and bus fares. If only we could get the children back to school. Nearly two years out of school will be devastating for their health and education.

Income Generating Projects



A learning visit to a garden in an old people's home. We are now working with a lady who is expanding urban gardens. She will be giving us advice and further training

Project Funding

One of our wonderful friends has given us some funds to set up two income generating projects that will help to keep KGVI going in the years ahead. One is to expand our production department and the other is to improve our therapy outpatients department so we can take in Medical Aid customers



A beautiful KGVI cabbage ready for sale.



Outpatients

We will be refurbishing our physio room so we can take paying Medical Aid outpatients. In this way we will be able to cover the therapy needed so badly by the KGVI children whose parents struggle to pay therapy fees.

As soon as we can get back to work we will be building our chicken houses ready for this stage of our production. By next year we want to be producing 80% of our own food needs. What a wonderful gift this was!





Just a reminder of where our children should be!



Before we had to close up KGVI altogether the therapy staff were working on a video for an online workshop on the importance of medication adherence. This picture taken from Farai's computer as he edited the documentary.

The Next Steps

We have to think about how we can help our children when they are at home like this.

We have to make sure families know how to deal with chronic illnesses, pressure sores, therapy and nutrition. Which means we need data to keep connected.

We also need data for those teachers who are able to reach their children via WhatsApp – what a way to have to teach!

We have to set up better ways to help when our children are out of our reach.

Thank You!

We do so appreciate your support both financial but also just by keeping in touch and letting us know you are thinking of our children.

Our best wishes go to our friends in Germany and the Netherlands who have been having such terrible floods.

Hopefully we will all get through all this sooner rather than later!

KEEP SAFE!

