

KEEPING YOU IN THE
LOOP FOR LESS

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the noows

KEEPING YOU
CONNECTED TO THE
LIFE OF OPERATION
ORPHAN

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Autumn 2016

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This quarter has been as busy as ever and we have some exciting developments to share with you...

A growing relationship with Elevation Networks has meant that the summer was definitely not an opportunity to stop and rest. Teams of young people with bundles of energy have been helping to put Operation Orphan on the map! For more on this see page 4.

The time for our Keep a Child Warm distributions is fast approaching and we cannot wait to take teams to meet the beautiful children we support through Keep a Child Warm in Ukraine and Moldova. A lot of hard work has gone into making this a success and we are excited to give our teams an unforgettable experience. If you'd like to join one of our expeditions, we would love to hear from you. (globalexpeditions@operation-orphan.org)



Packing Week

Keep a Child Warm

What a brilliant team effort at this year's Packing Week. With support from around 60 students (from Chilwell School and Chilwell 6th Form) as well as other teams and individual volunteers joining throughout the week – this was definitely a #TeamWorkMakesTheDreamWork moment!

TV coverage from Sharon Walia at Notts TV helped to summarise a week worth remembering. Working in the extreme heat to help vulnerable children living in extreme cold required some serious determination. The effort put into making this week a success is worth noting. This year, Heather Sharp did a fantastic job of

organising the logistics for the coat collections, sorting at the warehouse and Packing Week. Volunteers nation-wide organised coat collections in their locality and of course, others came to our HQ to help us with sorting!

Help came from the Shetland Islands when two lovely volunteers (John & Julia)

drove a van full of donations all the way to Nottingham. Julia Odie has been advocating for Operation Orphan and collecting (AND MAKING) warm clothing. Last year she went on her first Global Expedition to Moldova, helping hand out the donations.

It's been amazing to play a very small part in this brilliant (and fast growing) movement of young people. This summer, the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme in Nottingham got involved with Operation Orphan on a practical level as part of their social action. Several groups came to help us at our warehouse and others helped us by spreading the word about the charity and fundraising.

As part of Elevation Network's NCS programme these young people have been introduced to inspiring individuals and organisations that exemplify the delivery of social action on both a local and global scale. The aim was to excite and motivate them to plan and deliver their very own youth-led social action project, supporting local people or organisations. Operation Orphan provided a perfect match!

Orphan who provide rewarding and tangible tasks of real social action with a global impact. Our NCS participants met inspirational OO staff members and volunteers and found out about this local charity with massive global impact on the lives of others."

Stephen McArdle,
Elevation Networks

"It has been such an amazing opportunity for these young people to get involved in the work of Operation

"It was fab to meet such lovely, enthusiastic young people who have said YES to an opportunity which will set them up for life!"

Cyrylyn Moore (Operation Orphan Co-Founder)



Knitting & Nattering



Keep a Child Warm

We have such a lot of wonderful crafters who send blankets, hats, mittens and scarves for Keep a Child Warm. Molly Bridge holds a knitting and nattering club at her nursing home and often sends her granddaughter, Sarah, with the fruits of their labour. At the grand age of 96, Molly says she teaches the 'old folk' how to knit! Over the last 6 years just Molly alone has knitted about 50 blankets for us. She spotted a blanket she'd made being handed out

to Nepal earthquake victims when the local news featured a clip about Operation Orphan. Molly quickly made the front page of the Grantham Journal - a lovely encouragement.

Another crafter from the Shetland Islands has been teaching children at Ollaberry Primary School how to crochet and how to sew beautiful fleece hats. Julia Odie recently saved some donations from being ruined

by a freak house fire, before bringing a van full of items all the way to Nottingham. Julia is a fantastic ambassador for the charity and volunteers her time raising funds and awareness throughout the Islands. We are pleased to say Julia is coming with us next year to share her crafting skills with the Ebola orphans in Sierra Leone!

Good to Know

Because of the way we are funded 100% of your valuable contribution will go directly towards 'changing lives for a brighter future'.

Your Donations



100% of donations are channelled to our project fund.

Corporate Support



100% of our admin and marketing costs are covered by our corporate partners. Thanks guys!



Girlguiding

We are grateful to Girlguiding Nottinghamshire for supporting us this year. The girls have got so much out of earning their Keep a Child badges and we have been delighted to receive photos and updates about what they've been getting up to each month.

From January to May, girls have taken on various challenges to promote Keep a Child. Balancing books on their heads, creating shelters, food tasting and much more whilst learning about the work of

Operation Orphan. One local group of Guides just got in touch to let us know they organised a clothes swap for friends and family and raised £87.50 – thanks girls! We would love to see other

counties or even national organisations getting involved. If you would like to be part of this please get in touch.



Keep a Child Warm Challenge



How many items of clothing can you put on in 60 seconds?

Why not sign up to be part of our Keep a Child Warm Challenge in January? This is a fun challenge, designed to raise awareness and funds for our Keep a Child Warm project. You can sign up as a group, school or as an individual to become top of our leader board and layer-up for a good cause.



The Power of Unspoken Language

Keep a Child Learning in Zimbabwe



Imagine not being able to communicate with your child! How would life be with your teenager if all you could express was; “don’t do that”, “are you hungry?” or “time to sleep”? In the past, parents in Zimbabwe with deaf children had no support in learning to use sign language themselves and their children could only go to school if parents could afford fees for a school in one of the big cities, so this was often the best they could hope for. Parents and deaf children themselves were very isolated.

“I thought I was the only person in the world with a deaf child until I came to Nzeve. There I met other mothers and children with the same challenges. It has helped me to cope – knowing I can talk to other people who understand my situation. Now I have learnt how to communicate in sign language I can start to build a relationship with my child.”
Mother of Pretty

As well as educating the children, Nzeve organises teams of parents and staff, along with deaf adults, to bring awareness to communities in the Manicaland province. Village leaders report that their communities have become more sensitive to those with disabilities, no longer calling these people “worthless”. They also recognise the special needs of families with deaf children, who may need to go to school far from home.



“It made a difference when we met deaf people who run businesses, work as teachers and can teach us a new language!”



Good Health in Ghana

Keep a Child Healthy

For years we have been working with The King’s Village in Northern Ghana to care for malnourished children. Hundreds of tiny babies each year are brought to the Nutrition Centre in desperate need of care. Frequently it is their mothers who bring them and the root of their malnutrition is a lack of education around what their babies need. Often malnourished children are viewed as being cursed, so they are thrown out of their communities, or even put to death by the local witch doctor.

It is these practises that the Nutrition Centre and its amazing staff aim to eradicate by educating mothers on how and what to feed their babies. They aim to show these communities that far from being cursed, these children can be saved. In 2015 the Nutrition Centre admitted 248 patients and were able to save 231. This is a great outcome with so many acute cases.

Terry and Ann, our project coordinators, have been travelling to Ghana for the last 8 years to oversee the success of this centre and to promote good sanitation and hygiene across the Tolon-Kumbungu District. Terry and Ann have also been working further north

of the King’s Village. A run down clinic building north of the Volta River has now been refurbished. Complete with an ambulance boat to transport the more acute patients to the hospital, this centre now provides a nurse, sent from the King’s Village Medical Centre. Thanks to our generous donors in the UK, Operation Orphan is also helping to fund supplies for this ‘Overseas’ clinic. The village chief is delighted that this is finally happening as this clinic could potentially serve a huge area, about 6,500 people.

We love getting reports back from the Nutrition Centre in Ghana. They say that a picture is worth a thousand words. So see for yourselves the

difference this amazing project is making. Meet Ammina, Rashida and Sumaila (and a Minion!?!). These triplets were barely surviving out in the village of Dalun and had to be brought into the Nutrition Centre towards the end of March. They weighed between just 2.8kg and 3kg each. Without intervention they would not have all survived, but as you can see now they are doing really well and are weighing in at 4.9kg, 4.6kg and 5.5kg.

We love these happy stories. Thank you again to everyone who supports this amazing work.



Northern Iraq



We've had some moving updates from our partners in Northern Iraq. A family of three orphans were recently taken on a shopping trip to the market to buy some of the things they desperately needed. They couldn't stop smiling as they ran around, having fun in the markets and shops.

"These children were very sad and did not know joy and hadn't smiled in a long time, but today you have brought joy to their hearts and you have made them smile again."

Iraq is a place of little hope and constant war. The hope this small act brings shows them that there is love and hope for them and it makes all the difference.

On their first trip to Iraq in November last year, Sam and Steve met a little boy who stole their hearts. He has a cognitive development disorder which has led to multiple health issues. Our partners tell us that he is now under a paediatric psychologist and has moved from the dark, damp caravan that he was in to a partner organisation building. This provides support for the whole family and a better temporary home. This has been made possible through the support of our partners and funded by people in the UK who care.

Thank you to all our supporters for making this possible and to Steve & Sam Fletcher for their passion to help orphans and refugees in the Middle East.

Global Expedition

We are looking for teachers to join us on our next Global Expedition to Sierra Leone. If you know someone who would like to be part of this amazing experience, please ask them to get in touch. Details are on the website.

SPONSOR OUR KEEP A CHILD SCHEME

Can you pledge just £5 a month?

This will help us to fulfil a wide range of goals in the lives we are caring for by strengthening the care structure around them. That could be providing warm clothes and nappies for a tiny Syrian refugee baby or ensuring that a teenage AIDS orphan

in Zimbabwe gets the counselling and support that they need.

For more information:
www.operation-orphan.org
 Phone: 084321 63838
 Local: 0115 896 9942

Join the Pack

Hot off the press; we're excited to announce our partnership with a new children's clothing brand, 'Cub Pack'.

Cub Pack are a new business who will be selling responsibly sourced children's apparel online - with 50% of their profits going to Operation Orphan. When purchasing items through the Cub Pack site, customers will

be contributing to getting essential aid to children in crisis situations. Cub Pack are a Nottingham based company aiming to begin retailing later this year. Founder (Lauri Bradley) is decorating and packing items from a small office in West Bridgford with ambitions to grow sales, increase awareness for Operation Orphan and help support orphans around the world.



CUB PACK

"We are thrilled to be working with such a fantastic charity. Our hope is that profits can be used to help send Cub Packs to those children that most need them."

Lauri Bradley – CEO and Founder



"I proved to myself I can do new things. I loved going into schools and talking to the children and networking with others to get the charity known. Next year it will be bigger and better!"
Emma Chalk -
Volunteer



Meet the Team

UK volunteers for Keep a Child Warm



Emma Chalk is from South Wales and has been supporting Operation Orphan's Keep a Child Warm project for the past few years. This year her support went to a whole new level as she coordinated the South Wales coat collections! Emma introduced us to schools, groups and individuals in her area. She also introduced Caerphilly Borough County Council, who held their own coat collection and invited the Mayor to officially hand over the

donated items to our team. Not only did Emma encourage schools to sign up and take part, she even visited them on her days off, often working closely with the School Council on their plans for Keep a Child Warm.

We are so grateful to all of our volunteers and our ambassadors, like Emma, who do so much to support us and help develop the work of Operation Orphan.



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