

KEEPING YOU IN THE  
LOOP FOR LESS

The Noows is designed  
for free by The Media  
Collective and all print  
costs covered by  
Danbro.



# the noows

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED  
TO THE LIFE OF  
OPERATION ORPHAN

.....

**Edition 5**  
Summer 2018

**P.5**  
Sustainability in  
Congo

How a family holiday  
changed lives  
forever.

**P.6**  
How you helped...

Bringing you an  
exclusive update on  
how YOUR regular  
giving is helping.

**P.11**  
Calling on runners!

Can you put your  
running shoes on for  
Operation Orphan?

# On the Job!

We have some exciting developments to let you know about, including the appointment of our newest staff member, Rob Sharp. Rob has been focusing most of his time on building – both literally and metaphorically. During his first few months he has built a new Forget-Me-Notts storage room, a modified warehouse sorting space and countless beds!



"I'm thoroughly enjoying being part of this incredibly rewarding work. It has such a direct impact on people's lives and I get the joy of witnessing this first hand. I shared a Facebook post at 7pm the other day and by 9am the following morning, every item on the Amazon wish list had been purchased. Now, because of people's generosity I get to go and fit out a completely new bedroom for this little girl – incredible!"

Rob Sharp

As most of his work is spent developing our Forget-Me-Notts project, Rob is usually the man for job; delivering (and fitting) larger household items that come through our referral scheme.

Referrals keep coming in thick and fast, demonstrating the genuine needs of vulnerable families in our local area. Many of the requests we receive are for beds, floor coverings and storage. When you see little ones sleeping on cold concrete floors and using plastic bags for clothes storage, it really does confirm the huge need there is within our community. We are thrilled to be meeting many of these needs through Forget-Me-Notts.

Our hope is to find some generous companies who can help us to meet some furniture and bed requests. That would be a huge help. If you know anyone in this line of work perhaps you could put a good word in for us.

The way people find out about these needs in real time is by joining our Facebook page. If you haven't already joined please take a look at this for more information.

# Crafted with Love

Donations of wool as well as ready crafted squares and strips have made their way from Shetland to Suffolk. This huge team effort is one of many, with people from all over the place sending their squares for other crafters to sew together. Our ambassador Victoria, together with her mum, has been busy sewing some to make the large blankets you can see here.



At our Nottingham office we often have visits from knitters when they are dropping off their donations. The people we meet express that they love the fact that their craft is helping to make a difference.

Our crafting community is fantastic and keeps us supplied with beautiful handmade blankets, hats, scarves and gloves.

These lovely blankets are sent in from all over the world (literally received a blanket from New Zealand recently) to keep kids warm next winter!

Blankets are used within our Keep a Child Warm project as well as part of our Crisis Response.



"It's lovely to know the things we have made will actually help someone."

Christine Mee - Knitter

# Heaven Homes



Our truck load of aid arrived in Sierra Leone. After taking a while to clear customs, it finally made it to Heaven Homes where the contents are being used to strengthen the care structure in a number of different ways. From school resources and furniture to brand new mattresses, the items donated are being used to improve the school, the homes and the wider community. Thanks to every person who gave to this appeal.

Since our last visit Kippy has sought advice from mental health specialists within the country and is awaiting recommendations as to what help is available in Sierra Leone. Our planned expedition in April was unfortunately postponed as a duty of care to our runners, volunteers and partners. This was primarily a safety measure and to not cause unnecessary stress on our volunteers and friends at Heaven Homes during the height of the political tension. As the elections took far longer than anticipated we took the 'safety first' decision to postpone the trip until later in the year. We can't wait to get back there and visit the children.



## Hebron Home



When we were first introduced to our Congolese partners, Donald and Marie, we knew instantly they were the real deal. Having moved from their home country to the UK, this couple would often return to DR Congo for a family holiday. Little did they know one particular holiday would change their lives forever.

Marie was introduced to 30 children, orphaned by war and fending for themselves at a disused property. It was then her heart broke for these children and she decided to step in and help. For years the couple and their wider family have been working in the UK and sending money home to provide for these children. They have given their entire lives to this cause.

Now that we are working together, Donald and Marie are able to concentrate their efforts on the things that matter most, ensuring the children are well cared for and have access to all of the things they need.

The wonderful thing is that Donald and Marie have made sustainability a priority as they build Hebron Home. Firstly they've established a transportation business

to create a sustainable income to supplement the donations from Operation Orphan. This means that they are not entirely reliant on overseas funding. Now they are farming the land to grow their own food supply.

Five of the children are now at university and the 25 younger children are living at their new home. They have moved to nearby schools and are settling in well. What was going to be a vacation home for the couple has now become Hebron Home, a safe home and sanctuary for children who have experienced such a traumatic childhood.

In addition to the children living in residential care, Marie and Donald are helping 137 living in the community.



## How You Helped... Anna

My name is Anna and I'm 14 years old. I am originally from Mile 91 in Sierra Leone.

I have a sister and three brothers. My life was very different before I came to Heaven Homes. When I lost my father and mother I felt so sad and I was suffering. I didn't go to school, I was ten years old then. When I came to Heaven Homes I began going to school and learning. I am so happy for this opportunity and I am doing so well at school. When Operation Orphan come to visit us they make us feel so happy. They brought us a guitar so now we can sing with music. I share a room with the other girls at Heaven Homes. We are all like sisters now and we care for one another.



## The Project

Anna was one of sixty children who came to Heaven Homes in November 2014. These children had been rejected and treated like outcasts. The reason? They had survived Ebola. In many African cultures the usual practice is to absorb orphans into the wider family, however either these children had lost all their family to Ebola, including their extended family, or wider family were simply too afraid to take them in due to their close proximity with the virus.

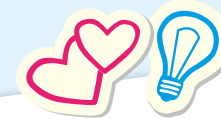
Heaven Homes was originally set up as a school supporting the local community. When the Ebola outbreak happened the school was closed and the founders decided they had to do something to support these desperate children. They turned the school into a temporary home.

Over the last three years Operation Orphan has helped to build four homes. The children are placed with an 'auntie' who takes care of them and other children of ranging ages. When teams have been to Sierra Leone to visit it's plain to see that they are well looked after. Heaven Homes has been recognised as

a flagship children's home in the country because of their excellent standard of care. We know that supporting them is not just about meeting their physical needs, but also the psychosocial. We are therefore also keen to find ways of helping the children process the trauma they have been through.

Thank you for being part of our Keep A Child Family. Your consistent donations mean we are able to provide long term support for Anna and other children who are in a similar position.

Thank you for your support.



## Keep a Child

### Moldova

Thanks to the power of social media we recently put a request out for some specific items needed by our friends at Cahul Social Care. They are working hard to change people's attitudes towards disability and offer a fantastic day centre for disabled children. We're also sending items to help children who have been left without parental protection.

The greatest thing about this story is that no sooner had we made this request known on our Facebook page, we had such an overwhelming response! People began bringing in items, purchasing items and arranging to add things to the Keep a Child Warm coat collections.

One lady from Belfast realised the postage was pricey and found an excellent way to contribute by purchasing the requested items from Tesco and having them delivered directly to our office for just one pound. Genius.

We're always amazed by people's generosity and consider it an absolute privilege to facilitate getting aid to people who are desperately in need.



### Find us online!

Follow us to get the latest updates on our projects and find new ways you can get involved!



Operation Orphan



@operationorphan



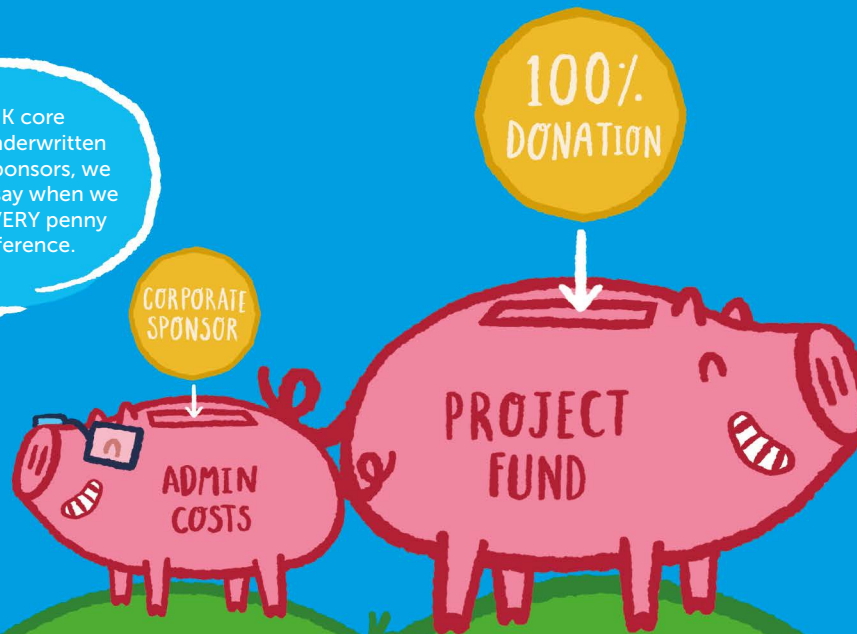
@OperationOrphan

# Our 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.

With our UK core admin costs underwritten by corporate sponsors, we mean what we say when we declare that EVERY penny makes a difference.



For more information:  
[www.operation-orphan.org](http://www.operation-orphan.org)

Phone: 084321 63838  
 Local: 0115 896 9942

# The Help!

We simply couldn't manage without the help of fantastic people who give up their time to come and lend us a hand. This year we have seen an increase in the number of businesses and individuals volunteering to help us fulfil our mission. There's always a lot to be done to keep things moving and as we have a very small core team, this means relying heavily on our volunteers.

It's been such a joy to have teams and individuals who have helped us year on year. But it's also been incredible to welcome some new faces into the warehouse. Each time a new team comes to volunteer they leave with an incredible sense of achievement. Processing donations can seem a tedious job, but when you realise the difference you are helping to make in the lives of vulnerable children it certainly sheds a new light on the task at hand. Teams have the opportunity to work together, building morale and at the same time making a tangible difference. This year so far we have had help from various companies including Russell Scanlan, Linsco Recruitment, OPG, Ikano Bank, Smellie-Savage and our local Halifax branch!

As well as helping practically, when people come along and find out more about what we are on with, they help us to spread the word about Operation Orphan. There's no better way to get a true picture than to come along and see for yourself!





This year we were lucky enough to bag one charity place in the London Marathon. James Davis from Nottingham was selected to be our first ever London Marathon runner in his first ever London Marathon!

He smashed his fundraising target of £2000 raising more than DOUBLE this amount – 100% of which will be used among our amazing projects, keeping children safe, warm, healthy and learning.

James has a special love for the people of Uganda and some of the funds raised will be allocated for our Uganda project, Pencott Valley Primary School. Through this project, orphans in the community who would otherwise not have access to an education, enjoy their right to learn! From training in the snow to running in the hottest ever recorded London Marathon, James describes the whole experience as 'spectacular'. He said the energy and support from the crowd was the best part and that he wouldn't have got through it without them!

**IT'S BEEN AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY I WILL LOOK BACK ON. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SUPER KIND IN THEIR GIVING. BY FAR THE BEST BIT ABOUT THE MARATHON ITSELF WAS DEFINITELY THE CROWDS! THEY KEEP ME GOING**  
**JAMES**

# FANCY A CHALLENGE?

## WE ARE LOOKING FOR RUNNERS!

**UK & Moldova**  
26th September - 4th Oct 2018

**UK & Sierra Leone**  
April 2019

This year we hope to take our Hope Alive Tour challenge to Moldova. The first few days of running will be in the UK, running through some places of significance and then onto Moldova for the marathon. During the final part of the tour you will get to help out with our Keep a Child Warm clothing distribution. There's nothing better than to see the faces of the children you have helped by taking part in this fantastic (and unique) running challenge. To make this tour possible we need a couple more willing runners – could it be you?

**Ikano Robin Hood Half Marathon**  
Sunday 30th September

With the charity's Head Quarters in Nottingham, it's a fitting opportunity to take part in the Robin Hood half marathon. We'd love to see as many runners as possible wearing our Operation Orphan vests, helping us to promote the incredible work of the charity. If you are already planning to run and you wouldn't mind wearing one of our running vests, we'd love to hear from you.

If you'd like to take it a step further and gain some sponsorship for taking part, get in touch and we'll help to get you started.





# Global Expeditions



If you'd like to join one of our Global Expedition Teams, we'd love to hear from you. From distributing coats in Moldova to playing educational games with children in Sierra Leone, we have opportunities for you to travel with purpose.

Give us a call or visit our website and search Global Expeditions.



---

143 Attenborough Lane, Attenborough, Nottingham, NG9 6AA  
T: 08432 163 838 | Local: 0115 896 9942 | F: 084321 63848 | E: [info@operation-orphan.org](mailto:info@operation-orphan.org)  
Charity Registration Number: 1136170 Company Registration Number: 7148510

[www.operation-orphan.org](http://www.operation-orphan.org)