



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

On 12th September 2011 there was a terrible fire in the Sinai village of Mukuru slum in Nairobi. This is one of the areas where we operate a TB and HIV project and we have 6 Community Health Workers there. The fire started when an oil pipeline exploded. Although Kenyan law states that no dwelling should be built within 55 feet of an oil pipeline many of the makeshift homes were built directly on top of it causing deaths to over 100 people, with many more losing their homes.



One of those affected was Alex Ngana, one of the team of Community Health Workers assisting in that slum. Alex is a single father of 5 children. The youngest of his children is Barbara, aged 10. When Barbara was aged 3 she had meningitis, which left her partially paralysed down the right hand side. This has resulted in reduced ability in walking and speech. The day the fire broke out Alex had left Barbara in the house whilst he went to buy her school uniform and stationary for the start of school the following day. When he returned to the house and found it burned to the ground he feared the worst. However, some neighbours had rescued Barbara and told her to 'run away' to escape the spreading flames. After 6 terrifying hours Alex and

Barbara were reunited, but they were left homeless and none of their household possessions had been saved. Two generous donors responded to our appeal for help for Alex and his family and with the money we were able to buy many items such as mosquito nets, charcoal stove, beds, mattresses, bedding, towels, bowls, saucepans, shoes, glasses, plates, water containers. They were overjoyed with the gifts and it was a very special occasion to see father and daughter beaming from ear to ear after all the difficulties they have been through.

FUNDRAISING

We are so grateful to Catherine Fox for her excellent efforts in running a half marathon in October. All the sponsorship money that she received she donated to the work of the Order of Malta in Lamu. So far she has raised the incredible sum of £1335, which has enabled us to provide some basic household items and furniture in the Doctors House in preparation for a team of volunteer doctors to arrive in mid February.

We have also been consistently and generously supported by the West of Scotland Companions of the Order of Malta who have raised much of the money by the children of St Aloysius School in Glasgow performing in concerts in the Glasgow area. In 2011 the WOS Companions raised £7965. Incredible!

BABY TREVOR

Baby Trevor continues to grow at a rapid pace (now 6.5kg) following his lifesaving heart operation in September 2011. This was organised by the Order of Malta Embassy and the Order of Malta Association in Monaco. His paediatric cardiologist in Nairobi gave him the 'all clear' in December 2011 and no longer needs to see him on a regular basis.

However, as Baby Trevor has also been diagnosed with mild Down's Syndrome we will continue to support his family and take an active interest in his development. The family will face many challenges, but they are a loving and attentive. Trevor has two sisters, Winnie (12) and Freda (15).



LAMU DISTRICT HOSPITAL

A small team of volunteer doctors are due to arrive in Lamu in mid February. They have come through the UK charity Doctors Worldwide and are very experienced at assessing the medical needs of the local population through outreach clinics. This is very exciting news and is the result of almost 2 years working in the district and shows our commitment to improving the health of the people there. Once these doctors arrive they will immediately begin their work and will report back as to the most urgent facilities and equipment required.



In preparation for their arrival we (with the tireless and generous help of Lars and Carol Korschen of Peponi Hotel) have been kept busy with furnishing the house and repairing water, electrics, doors, windows and floors. Our generous supporters – most notably Catherine Fox and the Scottish Companions, have made this possible.



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