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News from Potter's Village - Preview

1 message

Potter's Village <Enews@pottersvillage.org.uk>

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Welcome to the latest issue of the Potter's Village Newsletter.

Issue 2.2 2020

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Coronavirus

We have had regular reports from Idah, the Administrator at Potter's Village. We are very grateful to God for the way she has supported the staff and managed the situation. She has written:

"Covid-19 has had a big negative impact on Kisoro community in general and specifically to the Cathedral and Potter's Village. Since lockdown began on March 25th many businesses and other economic activities were closed and generally there was no money in the community; some families went without food for some time. Seseme Cathedral [Kisoro] tried to buy food for the very vulnerable Christians but they could not reach them all due to limited resources. The places of worship also closed since then to date. There is been a high level of domestic violence and moral deterioration, especially among children and the youth.

At Potters Village, we were also greatly affected.

- Closure of transport, alongside a curfew, made it hard for staff to walk to & from, as a result majority of the staff slept on site. This was not only an inconvenience for the staff and their families, but it also increased on our expenditures especially utilities and meals for the staff.
- In the crisis Centre, we have not been able to do growth monitoring for the children on community support. It is not possible to bring children since public transport was restricted.
- Families with babies residing here were not able to check on them for a long time.

In the Medical Centre, the number of clients drastically dropped due to closure of transport means and general decline in the economic activities in the community and therefore no money. At some point some staff's salaries were reduced because we did not have enough funds to pay.

At the beginning of June lockdown began to ease. At the moment shops and other economic activities are operating normally and public transport has been

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allowed but vehicles are only permitted to carry half capacity making it expensive for travellers. Boda bodas [motorbike taxis], which are the most commonly used transport, have been able to carry passengers since the end of July. The borders are still closed."

In the UK, the Friends of Potter's Village launched the Coronavirus Crisis Fund Emergency Appeal and thanks to you, our fabulous supporters, we've raised over £18,000, which means we can send extra funds to support all the staff at Potter's Village. We are pleased to say that all the staff are now able to live at home and come to work as usual. Also, everyone is again able to receive their full pay.

The Crisis Centre is working well but not all the Community Activities have resumed. The Special Care Nursery is still busy and well utilised by sick babies. However, the numbers attending outpatients, and being admitted as inpatients, in the Medical Centre are still significantly lower than normal. Both Davis and Rodgers, the two Clinical Officers, are doing very well in the absence of Dr Nicci. The Rehabilitation Centre is working normally despite Janie, our Physiotherapist, still being in the UK because of Covid restrictions on travel. Similarly, Dr Nicci has been unable to leave South Africa and take her home leave in the UK.

Updates on website

We plan to add additional news to the website more frequently, so please keep checking.

Staff Roles



Some of the senior staff have been at Potter's Village for several years, you probably know their names but maybe not much about their roles.

Sonia is the Office Assistant / Finance Officer and is often the first person visitors to Potter's Village will meet. Sonia has a degree in business administration and has been at Potter's Village for over six years now. She runs the office and often shows visitors around. Sonia lives locally and is engaged to be married.

News of children



Perfect whose mother died after a long period of sickness when Perfect was 6 weeks old, went to live with her paternal grandmother in March.

Yonah, whose mother died soon after birth 18 months ago, was resettled with her maternal aunt in June. Yonah will always be special to Potter's Village staff, as his mother, Mahoro, had worked there for several years.

We have some sad news about **Barnabas**, whose mother died soon after his birth. Barnabas had been resettled with his family but following an asthma attack was found to have a congenital heart defect along with heart failure. Unfortunately, he died whilst preparations were being made to transfer him to Mulago in May.

Child sponsors

We couldn't manage to support the numbers of children we do at Potter's Village without our Sponsors, but we invariably have more children than sponsors. All our sponsors are assigned a specific child, for whom they receive a photo and a news update twice a year.

Due to the success of the income generation schemes, most families can manage without support after few years, and the sponsor will then be allocated another child. Some children, though, will need support for much longer.

If you'd like to consider sponsoring a child, you can find out more on the website by clicking <http://www.pottersvillage.org.uk/how-to-help/sponsor-a-child/> or contact the UK Office on pottersuk@gmail.com to request a form.

New babies



Elizabeth was born on 29th Feb 2020 at home in her parent's village. Unfortunately, Elizabeth's mother died due to retained placenta and so Elizabeth was brought to Potter's Village a few days later.

Paul was born at the end of last year but only admitted to Potter's Village in March. Paul's mother has mental health problems, for which she is receiving treatment, but progress is slow. They are a poor family and Paul's father was not able to manage well as he only has a small plot of land for cultivation.

Laban was admitted in May, aged 4 days, his mother has a psychiatric illness and was unable to care for Laban. She has now been started on treatment and it is hoped that Laban will eventually be able to go back to her.

Augustine was brought to Potter's Village in June when he was six weeks old, after his mother died suddenly following complications from infection. His parents are from Rwanda and when lockdown is over and borders are open again, he will go to his grandparents.

Other news



The pig project is doing well. The pigs last produced in early March and currently we have six young ones bringing the total number to 10 pigs.

The cows do not look healthy, however. Christoph, from the Diocese, visited and advised how we can improve on the feeding and care.

The gardens now have vegetables that the children are feeding on and the new ones have just been planted.



Construction on site has now started and is going well. Currently we are working on the windows in the mother's hostel to replace the old concrete grills and a cupboard to house the ultrasound scanner. There was an urgent need to replace the waste incinerator and we are pleased to say it has just been completed. There is no refuse service in Kisoro and staff were taking all the refuse up to the hospital for disposal.

The Ugandan Board have recommended that the rear boundary of the property has a proper wall built to replace the hedge and complete the wall around the Village. This will help with security and ease the problem of flash floods from the adjoining fields in heavy rain.

Please pray for us

As Potter's Village increases in size inevitably costs will also increase. Please

pray that we continue to find funding and support in order that we are able to expand and save the lives of those who need us the most.

Give Thanks to God:

- for keeping the project as a whole running well and focused
- sincere gratitude also goes to all stakeholders of Potter's Village and everyone who has contributed to the success of the project. May God bless you all
- for keeping Potter's Village safe from Covid-19
- that most of the children are well and healthy, and the staff are still committed and hardworking
- for Janie, currently in the UK following tests for a health problem, has been cleared to return to Uganda
- for a good response to the coronavirus emergency appeal

Please Pray for:

- God's continued guidance and protection in running the ministry
- continued unity and teamwork among the staff at Potter's Village
- Nicci & Janie, on extended leave in South Africa and UK respectively, for their eventual return to Potter's Village, coronavirus permitting, in God's perfect timing
- strength, wisdom and compassion for all staff in the Medical Centre & Rehab Centre whilst Nicci and Janie are away
- the Ugandan Board of Governors as they manage Potter's Village, and for their desire to recruit a second doctor to support Dr Nicci, that they will be able to appoint someone suitably qualified and willing to work in Kisoro.
- Friends of Potter's Village, that they will continue to have sufficient income and for good stewardship of donated funds

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