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Goats Appeal More Than Doubles Last Year's Total



Sponsors Mark McConville from Priory Press and Paul McDonnell from Three Creative Company join Eamon Quinn from War on Want NI.

War on Want NI's Christmas 2007 Goats Appeal raised £12,000 to support livestock projects in Africa. Congratulations to all our shop staff and volunteers who helped make the appeal such a success and many thanks to all who supported the Appeal so generously.



Care for the Children

Mehayo Trust is a local organisation established in 1998 in Morogoro, Tanzania to provide residential care, education, health care and skills training for 45 children with mental disabilities. It is the only centre of its kind in the region.

As an initial support to the Trust, War on Want NI helped with a small grant to construct and stock a chicken house to enable the Mehayo staff develop a chicken project to help fund the children's centre. This grant coincided with a Christmas gift from Finland of a small incubator for hatching chicks. The trust can now hatch the eggs produced from crossing local hens with improved breed roosters. Word of the high quality chicks is getting around in the community and there is already a waiting list for stock. The Mehayo staff expect to have a constant source of income from selling the chickens, as well as having eggs and poultry for the children to eat.

War on Want NI is following up the initial small grant with a three year funding to provide accommodation, a water supply and a farm for the older children who need the protection of continuous sheltered accommodation and a sustainable livelihood.



Mehayo Trust Director shows the chicken project in Morogoro Tanzania

Talking Shop

Not content with just volunteering each week in the Coleraine War on Want NI shop, Chairperson Eleanor Mitchell and the volunteers have come up with some novel ideas for raising extra income to support our work.

Kathleen Doherty devised a quiz to guess the names of popular song titles and raised over £150.

Eleanor and Carolyn Kane set up a stall at their local car boot sale and despite the bad weather, raised over £100. They enjoyed it so much they are planning the next one!

In the run up to Christmas, Carolyn also made some beautiful Christmas cards, which she sold in the shop, the proceeds going to War on Want NI. Her latest venture is lavender bags, which are now on sale in the shop



Coleraine War on Want NI shop volunteers Eleanor Mitchell and Carolyn Kane display their latest retail ideas

After almost a year in temporary premises, the Dunmurry War on Want NI volunteers, finally moved into the newly built shop in Kingsway, Dunmurry.

Thanks to Chairperson Dorothy Thompson and all our volunteers for keeping the name of War on Want NI to the fore whilst working in the temporary premises and their hard work in preparation for the opening of the brand new shop. Thanks also to our loyal customers who have stayed with us through the changes in locations.

Making Change Happen

"Thanks for opening my eyes to these issues". "You challenged my perceptions". "I will pass on what I have learned to other people". These are comments from some of the 80 volunteers who participated in the Department of Foreign and International Development funded Development Education training. The sessions, held in Omagh, Banbridge, Ballynahinch, Bangor and 5 locations in Belfast, included lively discussion, debate and thought provoking group exercises on issues such as globalisation, influences on our thinking and understanding, stereotyping poverty and distribution of wealth in the world. The 7 staff and volunteer trainers and the volunteers who participated all say that the project has stimulated them to learn more about the causes of poverty and how individuals can make changes to benefit poor people.

Some of the Development Education trainers who facilitated the volunteer sessions



War on Want NI Council of Management

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 Chairman, Anne Lovell; Vice-Chairman, Eileen Connor;
 Hon Secretary, Brenda Maitland; Hon Treasurer, John Sloan;
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Getting the Message Out

The issues of domestic violence, physical disability and HIV are significant in Malawi. Three of War on Want NI's local partners from Salima got together to deliver three important messages to their communities through drama and song at an event held in October.

The attendance of the Chief of Police at the invitation of the United Caring Women Group helped reinforce the message, portrayed through drama, that abuse of women and children is against the law and therefore punishable. KODO, a group of people with disabilities, moved the crowd when they performed songs about people like them having the same rights and opportunities as their able bodied neighbours. This message had particular significance in a society where people with disabilities are not readily accepted. Salima Youth group presented a humorous but engaging drama on awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Practical awareness raising work, such as this, takes time to bring results. However the endorsement of the work by the traditional and local government leaders helps establish it on the community and local government agenda and this is a huge step forward. A series of follow on events are planned for the future.



Community groups perform for the villagers in Salima Malawi

My First Impressions by Eamon Quinn War on Want NI Head of Fundraising

My first impressions of Africa took my breath away - bright colours, stunning landscapes and the welcome given to visitors was overwhelming. I was visiting Malawi at the height of the hot season. Maxwell, War on Want NI's Country Representative, explained that while everyone needs to grow food throughout the year, without irrigation this poses a real challenge and hunger is a major problem.

In Ekwendeni in northern Malawi, we visited shops run by women as an income generation project. They proudly showed us the goods on sale, and how they keep their accounts. We produced the War on Want NI Newsletters and took great pleasure in showing pictures of volunteers and explaining how a network of shops run by eager volunteers in Northern Ireland was helping a network of shops in Malawi.



I had never seen extreme poverty before and was shocked by the living conditions of the children. All of them were bare-foot, the huts they lived in had very little; no sanitation or running water. I was however so impressed by the commitment and dedication to improving the conditions for these vulnerable people by the groups we support.

The person who lingered in my mind long after the visit was Mary Msauka. Her surname, "Msauka", means "Poverty" in the Malawian language. She is a grandmother who had recently lost three sons to AIDS and is now responsible for bringing up seven grandchildren. Through the support of the FOCUS Project, Mary is able to grow a steady supply of food for her grandchildren and still finds time to help others. When I asked her why she felt compelled to do this she said:

"We are mothers. Mothers of our own households and mothers of each other. In this village we cannot eat in our own houses and see our neighbours suffer. The food does not taste nice. It is time for the community to work together."

I suppose it's that same sentiment that motivates our volunteers in Northern Ireland who cannot stand by knowing that their global neighbours suffer. We are fortunate to have role models like Mary Msauka and our dedicated team of over 300 volunteers.

Mary Msauka working with FOCUS to grow food for her grandchildren and her neighbours

My visit to Buckingham Palace by Winnie Okot, War on Want NI, Administrative Assistant

When I received the invitation I could not believe it. In November I was to attend a Reception at Buckingham Palace given by The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh prior to their State visit to Uganda.

I felt proud and honoured to be amongst the guests from across the UK and to be representing War on Want NI and my country of birth Uganda.

The day before the reception my 2 sons and I flew to London. They were excited to be accompanying their mum on her trip of a lifetime and to be in London. The next day when the taxi driver arrived at our hotel to pick me up, he asked "Where to Madam"? I replied, as if in a dream, "Buckingham Palace".

I and the other guests were met by Palace staff and were escorted to the Reception Rooms. As I mentally practiced my curtsy I saw the Queen's reflection in the mirror as she entered the room and I thought "This is it, I am really here going to meet the Queen".

It was a very gracious reception with many members of the Royal Family and the entourage who were to travel with the Queen to Uganda, talking to the guests from all the different Commonwealth countries. I too had my opportunity to talk to both the Queen and the Duke. They asked how long I had been in Northern Ireland and how long I had been working for War on Want NI. It was wonderful to be standing in the wonderful reception room chatting with royalty.

When I see the Palace, The Queen and Prince Philip, I think that I have been there and have met them. This memory will stay with me as long as I live.



Winnie Okot prepares to meet the Queen

Christmas Wrapping Success

Last Christmas proved to be as busy as ever. Christmas shopping to be done, preparations made for that special meal, and of course, the children's anticipation of the arrival of Santa Claus.

War on Want NI was able to take a little of the stress out of Christmas for the shoppers of Forestside, Bow Street Mall and Ards Shopping Centres by offering a much welcomed Christmas Wrapping Service. Our volunteers wrapped presents of all shapes and sizes with Christmas wrapping paper and bows donated by local companies and the grateful shoppers made a donation to support our work. It was profitable for all - we managed to raise a magnificent £2,289.00. The same is planned for Christmas 2008 so there's plenty of time to practice your wrapping skills and get involved!

For information call me Helen Riley 028 90232064 or email helen@waronwantni.org



Roy Ryan from Forestside Shopping Centre Belfast hands over a cheque to Helen Riley from War on Want NI

CCEA supports War on Want NI

The Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) confirmed an 18 month partnership with War on Want NI committing to the raising of £20,000. Dedicated groups of CCEA staff plan a series of fundraising initiatives to support our projects in Malawi, Uganda and Tanzania, which make it possible for young people to receive an education.

Acting Chief Executive, Neil Anderson, said: "CCEA has been involved in many initiatives with different charities over the last few years and this year we have decided to focus our efforts on supporting War on Want NI. We are committed to reaching our target and are excited about the opportunity to make a real and lasting difference for those less fortunate than ourselves."