



# Friends of Double Joy

Supporting  
Double Joy  
Children's Farm in Kenya

Registered Charity No 1087172

Newsletter Summer 2021

postal edition

Dear Friends of Double Joy

I hope you are all managing to stay well and are coping with the on-going virus situation. Thankfully, so far at least, Double Joy has managed to stay virus-free and I know we all hope that will continue to be the case.

The highlight of this very full issue has to be the report by Joanna Hossack of the wonderful achievement of a group of Double Joy supporters, including herself, who raised £6,000 from sponsorship when they walked 1994 miles between them over 8 weeks; a testimony to appreciation of the work that Double Joy does in supporting needy children in Kenya. Joanna's full report of this demanding but inspiring effort is on Page 3.

Other encouraging news is the great success of the solar panels in improving the quality of life for all at Double Joy - see Page 2 - all thanks to your generosity.

My best wishes and thanks to you all.

Hilary Hall, Newsletter Editor



## Manager's Report

Currently we have 85 children, 45 boys and 40 girls. When the oldest children left in May, 1 new girl and 3 boys joined us.

We have 77 children of primary school age who attend nearby Ruma and Dagamoyo schools and 7 younger children who are in Early Child Development class at Double Joy. One child boards in a special school for the visually impaired and returns home to Double Joy during holidays.

Double Joy supports 40 young adults in various boarding secondary schools and vocational training institutions. We have sponsors for twelve children in secondary school.

The installation of solar power in the institution has been a great success; the children are able to study at night even when the mains electricity goes off. This efficient new solar power ensures our computers, television and Sick Bay medical fridge can carry on working.

We have taken all necessary precautions to keep our children and staff safe during the Covid pandemic.

We recently, reluctantly, said goodbye to two of our long-standing staff, Emma Achieng, Montessori trained, ECD teacher (for 18 years) and Fanuel Onyango, Head of Education since 1995.

We thank them for all their hard work and commitment to Double Joy and wish them success in their respective business ventures.

It's my pleasure to express my sincere thanks to all our donors for keeping Double Joy in your hearts, especially during these trying times of pandemic. Good bless everyone.

*Peter Atin, Manager*



## Emma Achieng Double Joy Nursery Teacher

It was with much sadness that we heard of the retirement of Emma Achieng, Double Joy's Nursery class teacher from February 2003 to April 2021. She came as a qualified Montessori Nursery Teacher and has been a blessing to the younger children. On my visits to Double Joy she would always welcome me to her class to do an activity with the children. Her class was always bright with colourful pictures on the wall and the children always looked happy learning in her classroom.

I remember the singing and dancing in the three languages the children need to learn, Luo, Kiswahili and English.

Emma was an exceptionally gifted and creative teacher and such a joy to work with. She showed a real love for her work and the young children she taught, and really brought lessons alive. She will be greatly missed by the children, staff and visitors alike, but wherever she goes the community will benefit from her energy, skill and enthusiasm. We wish Emma all the very best in setting up her own business.

*Sue Hilliard*

## Treasurer's Report.

Total funds raised in 2020 were £111,782 (only £1,401 down from 2019). Thank you all so very much. We sent Double Joy £120,768; (£9,777 was brought forward from 2019 and £8,632 carried forward into 2021).

Fundraising events raised £7,504.

Expenses:- Bank charges £343, Office and Communication £35, Newsletter Costs £413.

In January our bank mislaid our remittance during transfer to Kenya so we were only able to send half the usual amount. In February the problem was resolved and the remainder was sent to top up funds. The bank paid compensation for the inconvenience.

In March we changed to Transferwise to send your money in 2 separate amounts every month.

We have sent £7,500 per month for general expenses, up to £2,000 each month for Education Costs and paid a child's £930 hospital bill.

We have 164 Standing Order donors and 14 sponsors for secondary school students.

Large donations ranging from £440 to £17,000 were also received. Very many thanks to all the donors.

A glitch with PayPal was resolved and we now can access the PayPal Giving Fund without being charged. We successfully recouped over £1,000 held up by the PayPal disruption.

We also received a legacy of £2,652.91 from John Jackson's Will. We remember John with thankfulness for his kindness and commitment to Double Joy. (John met Mary Hinde in Lancaster in 1996 and immediately offered financial help, later becoming a regular donor, sponsoring 2 university students, paying the vehicle costs, numerous hospital bills and becoming a trustee of the charity.)

2020 Calendars raised £181 and Christmas Cards £200.

Just Giving donations have channelled £8,582.50 our way this year so far. These were generated by two fund-raising activities organised by Joanna Hossack and friends, the 'Christmas Crown' and 'We will walk 1994 miles' campaigns.\*

Mary Stone has continued to raise money regularly by selling cards and silver jewellery, though the pandemic restricted her usual face-to-face opportunities. Eric and Sharon too missed out on car booting opportunities for the same reason.

We were able to claim Gift Aid money of £16,920.34 for 2020. Thank you everyone who signed up for Gift Aid. We ask you to also consider doing this, if you have not already done so. This money really helps support the education costs of sponsoring teens in secondary education (currently 26).

Unbound, a US organisation, continues to give £157 a month, and Ashley Hall in St Albans, £100 a month. Thank you all so very much.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has worked so very hard to raise funds, those who have given directly when they were unable to hold their usual fundraising events, and all those who continue to support us year-on-year. Without you we would not be able to continue to support Double Joy in the vital work that it does.

*Sue Hilliard, Treasurer*

## Update on the Solar Panels

The Solar panels and circuits (installed in November 2020) provided by the relief grant from Quakers in Britain have been a great success. These two letters from D J children illustrate how the new solar power has really improved life at D J.

Greetings are coming to you with lots of love, hoping that you are fine, together with your friends and family members. My name is Merceline. I am 12 years old and am in grade 5. My brothers and sisters at Double Joy and I, and our mother Mary Hinde are all fine and pass greetings to you. When the solars arrived everyone was happy at Double Joy. The solars help us during our reading time when the electricity is off. Even in our free time we use it to watch television and have fun. During the outbreak of Corona virus television was teaching us science, mathematics and social studies. My ambition is to be a doctor, and treat people who are sick and save their lives. We have two dairy cows and their calves. We need to feed them well because if they give birth they provide us with milk, and we enjoy drinking milky tea. Goodbye, pass my greetings to your friends and family members. Pray for us, as we pray for you.

Your loving friend **Merceline**

Hello, much greetings are coming to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, hoping that you are fine together with our donors, your friends and your family members. My name is Joan Atieno from Double Joy. I am in grade six, and I want to take this golden opportunity to thank you for the solar you donated for us, because it helps us in different ways, like reading, watching TV, using computers. We always enjoy these activities and working hard so that we can achieve our goal of going to secondary school. At night we read stories in the light from the solar. We are happy to have solar and to use it. My hobby is playing full volleyball and football. My best subjects are science and mathematics and my ambition is to be a teacher. May you continue with the kindly heart you are having. May God bless you. Thank you.

Goodbye from your loving friend **Joan Atieno**.



## **We will walk 1994 Miles . . . .** by Joanna Hossack

In February my amazing friend Lisa texted me suggesting our group of 10 close friends from school should walk 1994 miles in 8 weeks to raise money for Double Joy. What a brilliant idea! Inspired by the founding of Double Joy in 1994 and our shared love of The Proclaimers anthem, the challenge was born! As a group we came up with the rules of engagement; the challenge ran from early April until the end of May and we could walk, run or cycle the miles (around 25 miles each per week). They would be totted up at the end of each week and we'd keep a log. In the meantime, we'd try to raise as much money as possible for Double Joy setting our target to £2,000.

We kicked off the challenge with a socially distanced 5 mile walk around Handforth and leafy Styal, Cheshire. We all agreed that we weren't overly athletic people and therefore 25 miles a week would be a real challenge. New bikes were bought, new trainers and gym attire were purchased, Strava was downloaded and an Excel spreadsheet was created. We were off!

The enthusiasm was high in Week 1 as people first started pounding the pavements of Caton and Didsbury, the hills of Wray and seafronts of Swansea. We amassed 365 miles and around £1,500 of sponsorship!

Week 2 saw another great effort by the team as Hannah ran all her 25 miles, Lianne completed a 12 mile walk around the Peak District and Beth a 15 mile walk to Glasson Dock. Our four legged friends were keeping us company along the way. 668 miles!

Week 3, things got serious and the cyclists were out. Lisa and Dan donned their helmets and got out on their bikes for the first time since childhood! Their two-man peloton inspired others as Helen and Camilla followed suit and we started racking up the miles. 950!

At Week 4 we had a half-way get together as Camilla lead us around a beautiful Crook O'Lune walk in Caton. We discussed increasing the target amount as our wonderful friends and family and Double Joy donors had already donated over £3,000! 1,223 miles and our feet were getting tired.

Week 5 was the toughest as the weather took a turn for the worse. Inspired by the resilient children at Double Joy, we got out and battled the blizzards. 1,460 miles and £4,430!!! We were all astounded by the generosity and the amount already raised.

Week 6, Georgia walked the length and breadth of the Big Smoke and we really put the promenade back into Morecambe with our weekly group walks along the seafront lead by Gemma and Rosie the Dog. 1,742 miles!

Week 7, was a week of firsts. I ran my first 10 km since I was 18 years old and Lisa got her first nod from fellow cyclists, allowing her into the special cycling club. 1,950 miles!! Only 44 to go! We managed to finish off the challenge by Wednesday of Week 8. We walked 1,994 miles!!!! Then we all checked the Justgiving page . . . We couldn't believe it!

Thank you to everyone who joined us along the way on our walks and cycles, including all the four-legged friends, Buddy, Bruce, Rosie, Jazz, Maisie, Gelert and Digger. Thank you to the wonderful children and staff at Double Joy who supported us throughout, kept a track of our miles and inspired us on the hard days to put on our trainers and get out there!

Thank you to every single person who took the time to donate. YOU raised £6,000 for Double Joy.

*Joanna, Georgia, Lianne, Gemma, Lisa, Helen, Hannah, Camilla, Beth and Daniel*



## **Next steps**

The main hall, classrooms and sick bay were provided with lighting and sockets to deliver the solar energy to electrical appliances, (most necessarily to the medicines fridge in the Sick Bay). We are seeking funding to extend this to most of the other buildings, including dormitories and bathrooms.

Because Double Joy is so close to the equator the daylight hours do not vary, so night falls by 7 pm and lifts by 6.30 am every day. Having good light to study and play before bedtime is important and there is also security lighting around the compound to keep the children safe.

We are very thankful for recent financial support from SHARE, a US charity, co-founded by Dr Martha MacGuffie. Known as 'Bobby', she visited Mary Hinde in 1996 and promised to raise money to build Double Joy some proper buildings as the earlier traditional (mud and thatch) houses quickly degraded. In the past few years SHARE has also made regular donations to our general funds. In 2020 and 2021 this ceased because of the severe curtailment of fund-raising caused by Covid-19.

**SHARE has now begun a feasibility study to drill a well to draw clean water for Double Joy.** If successful this will really help as we have been having to buy expensive tanker-loads of water during droughts as our existing mains water is often the first to be cut off as Double Joy is the last recipient on that supply circuit.

## Fundraising

### A free and easy way to support Double Joy

An effective (and free) way to support Double Joy when shopping on line is through Easyfundraising. On your phone or tablet, using the Easyfundraising app, you will be ported to your normal seller, eg Argos, Boots etc. On desktop computers simply visit

**[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)**

and choose Friends of Double Joy as your charity.

*Amazon Smile give 0.5% of purchase price. Half a penny for every pound you spend! Other sellers are usually much more generous.*

Mary Stone's beautiful  
**hand crafted silver jewellery and cards**  
continue to be available to purchase from her at  
27 Dallam Drive, Sandside, Cumbria LA7 7LL  
Tel: 01539 563481

If you have news of any fundraising activities please send your reports to Eric Roseden so that they can be included in the next edition of the newsletter. (Ed)

### Football kits

We found a really good deal on football shirts and shorts, buying a whole teams' kit for about £25. Although more expensive than that to post, we thought it a worthwhile venture and the team look smart and proud in their new outfits.

*Eric Roseden*



and more photos



Mary Hinde and Peter Atin



Double Joy children gleefully following the progress of the 1994 mile fundraising event.

If you are now able to access the internet and are therefore able to receive Double Joy Newsletters by email please be sure to inform Eric Roseden. This will save printing and postal costs and also allow you to access the DJ website

**[www.double-joy.org.uk](http://www.double-joy.org.uk)** for latest news and more photos!

### Donations by post for Double Joy should be sent to the Treasurer -

Mrs Susan Hilliard, 40 Downside Close, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7SD

Tel: (01258) 454415 e-mail: [special\\_lily31@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:special_lily31@yahoo.co.uk)

Cheques (UK only) should be made payable to 'Friends of Double Joy'

Bank details: The Co-operative Bank, Stockport, Sort Code 08-92-99, acc No. 65063707

**Ready to print STANDING ORDER FORMS** for making **regular donations to Double Joy** and Gift Aid Declaration forms are available to download from the website. No gift is too small. (Ed)

**Donations via the website:** To give to Friends of Double Joy to go

**[www.double-joy.org.uk](http://www.double-joy.org.uk)** then to the opening Home Page and press the purple JustGiving 'Donate' button to contribute.

If you struggle to negotiate this page, please contact Eric at [doublejoy1994@gmail.com](mailto:doublejoy1994@gmail.com) and he will do his best to help.

**Friends of Double Joy (Reg Charity No 1087172)** supports Double Joy Children's Farm, a home and school for children orphaned by AIDS: PO Box 435, Bondo 40601, Kenya [www.double-joy.org.uk](http://www.double-joy.org.uk)

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