

## Sponsored Events

Are you taking part in a sporting event or challenge next year? Why not get sponsored to raise money for Changing Futures? We can provide support with promotion, sponsorship forms and a BT MyDonate page.

## Did you know?

We collect Foreign currency and any British small change.

Happy New Year to all our supporters. 2017 was a very busy year for Changing Futures and 2018 looks as if it will also be busy with many new and exciting projects.

## Forbes Reef Primary School

Over the last 3 months we have been focusing on Forbes Reef Primary School. The kitchen has now been fully refurbished. Below are the before and after pictures.



## Regular Donations

If you do feel you are able to contribute a regular amount on a standing order please let us know. £5/month goes a long way in Swaziland.

## Receiving this Newsletter

If you do not want to receive this newsletter and other updates on Changing Futures and want to be removed from our email distribution list please email us at:

[info@changingfutures.org.uk](mailto:info@changingfutures.org.uk)

If you know someone who would like to be receive the updates please let us know. Please feel free to forward it.

## Contact Us

[www.changingfutures.org.uk](http://www.changingfutures.org.uk)

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A number of classrooms have had new ceilings installed and have been painted. The next projects at the school include repair of the toilets, providing domestic science equipment and building two new classrooms. The new classrooms are needed to accommodate an increase in pupil numbers because of the success of the school. Parents like the teaching staff, the discipline and the exam results that are being achieved.

## Repair of Playground Equipment

We have just completed the repair of playground equipment for Ekwetsembeni Special School as it had become dangerous. Below is a picture of the newly restored equipment.



## Baby Club

We have continued with the Baby Club and have recently received some very positive results. Six HIV positive babies recently tested for viral loads have undetectable levels having started anti-retrovirals 3 months ago. This has been achieved through compliance with the medication and as a direct result of the education given to mothers at the Baby Club. We are continuing to support the club and there are still many issues:

- Lack of support from their own families
- Afraid to tell others because they start 'broadcasting' their stories and then they become the laughing stock of their communities
- Some families don't want their children to share food with the sick child (this is especially so in homesteads where the families eat from one pot)
- Fathers unwilling to use condoms even though they know their partner is HIV positive (they feel a condom to be of no use since they are already infected). It was stressed by all the medical staff present of the importance to still use condoms to prevent reinfections!

What is good to see is the relief in the mothers' faces once they have spoken about their problem and then hear from other ladies in the room so that they realize they are not the only ones experiencing these difficulties.

## Skills Training

In 2016 we worked with Young Heroes in Swaziland to train 20 young people in skills such as carpentry, motor mechanics, agriculture and electrical wiring. It was a great success with many of the trainees gaining employment and a carpentry business to repair school furniture launched.

In 2017 we enrolled another 19 young people and they have now completed the first term.

## Physiotherapist at Cheshire Homes

We have supported the costs of a physiotherapist at Cheshire Homes in Swaziland for children with severe physical disabilities. The physiotherapy has improved the mobility and quality of life of many children. We have

agreed to continue to support the costs of a physiotherapist using the £5,000 grant we received from The King/Cullimore Trust Fund.

## The Rocking Horse Project

We continue to support The Rocking Horse Project (RHP) whenever we can. RHP provide palliative care for children in Swaziland. The following is a summary of their success to date:

- Supported 600 children referred to them for assistance by local doctors
- Provided transport assistance for 1,964 visits to doctors and physiotherapists - children in Swaziland are not dying from lack of life-saving drugs, but from lack of access to these drugs and therapies
- Paid for 119 tests to be done at private laboratories when the need is urgent but reagents are out of stock at government facilities
- Provided 4,589 days of accommodation at Hope House Hospice for children in need of end-of-life, or step-down or respite care. Where a family member has not been available, RHP have also employed care givers who live with the children and take care of their needs.

## Training on early cancer detection

There is no treatment available in Swaziland for children diagnosed with cancer. Children with cancer in Swaziland are sent to the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in South Africa. However, the hospital have been reporting that the children arriving there often arrive too late and either die on the ward or are sent back to Swaziland for end of life care. In recent months RHP have had five children with cancer referred to them for end of life care.

Childhood Cancer Foundation South Africa (CHOC), through the Ministry of Health in Swaziland and facilitated by RHP, arranged for training on the Early Warning Signs of Childhood Cancer. Dr Gita Naidu, the head paediatric oncologist at Baragwanath Hospital trained 32 doctors and nurses from all four regions of Swaziland and the national trainers from CHOC trained 169 rural health motivators. Dr Naidu and the Programme Manager from CHOC as well as the Healthcare Case Manager for Swaziland also met senior

members in the Ministry of Health to find a way of accelerating the process for children with cancer to receive treatment in South Africa.

It is hoped that the lives of many children will now be saved in the future as a result of better early diagnosis. We would like to thank Kenilworth Rotary Club for the grant that supported this initiative.

## Grants and Fundraising

As well as the projects listed above we have many possible new projects including providing school uniforms and shoes, providing more resources into schools and upgrading teacher's accommodation. At the moment Changing Futures and Swaziland Schools Projects do not have the money available to complete all the projects we would like to in 2018. We intend to organize more fundraising activities and apply for grants but if you can help us raise money by running an event or being sponsored to undertake a challenge please let us know.

Many of our supporters give us a regular amount on a monthly or annual basis. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you as without your support none of this would be possible.