

The Don McMath Foundation Newsletter – 29th September 2010
The Don McMath Foundation



Charity number: 1100164

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Hi All

Well it's now the end of September and we have had a very successful summer of fund raising events! First and foremost we would like to THANK all of you who have continued to support DMF with sponsorship and donations. The charity could not survive without you. Also a big WELCOME to all our new sponsors, your sponsorship is providing an education to a child who would never have had the chance to go to school. You are not only giving them a future, but are helping to break the chain of poverty for their families. Please spread the word as we are always looking for new sponsors. All of you should be tremendously proud, because this is a wonderful thing you are doing.

Some of the fundraising activities that took place this summer are:

Dance Round Verwood

From Babs White "On Saturday 15th May 2010 St Michael and All Angels church youth club, family and friends held their annual fundraising event this year was going to be different "Dance around Verwood" We started at the Church's Parish centre waved off by Mick and Judy (fancy dress was optional) we walked to various Verwood landmarks, including the library, village green, then up to local beauty spot St Stephens Castle, back down to the Hub (community centre) and finally back to St Michaels Church. At each stop the ipod and speakers were turned to full blast and we all danced along to our favourite cheesy disco hits YMCA, Abba - dancing queen and the like. At each stop embarrassing photos were taken and we were also filmed. When we arrived back at the Parish Centre for much needed refreshments, Mick and Judy gave an update on the school in the Gambia and the child we sponsor. It was a great afternoon with lots of fun, laughter and dancing and we raised a magnificent £495"



Charity Clay Shoot

We had a slightly disappointing turn out at the Charity Clay Shoot on Sunday 30th May but together with a barbeque held the next day still managed to make £720 for the school.

Verwood Rustic Fayre

On bank holiday Monday 30th August we once again had a stall at the Verwood Rustic Fayre with children's games and a lot of costume jewellery kindly donated by Chris Smith, together with Vouchers for any Hall and Woodhouse pub donated by Clare Newens from the Monmouth Ash we raised £180.





Bexhill Garden Party

This years Bexhill Garden Party was held on the 5th September with over 70 people attending. We raised £1,170 and got 8 new sponsors.

Anne would like to thank all of you who contributed food, chairs and tables and raffle prizes etc. Also thanks go to the

people who helped on the day – Belinda, David, Derek, Judy, Lucy, Mick and Paula. Many thanks also to Nick Marshall for his raffle prize of a holiday at his house in Spain. The holiday was won by one of our sponsors, Mark Gale, pictured here with his partner Heather



Verwood Garden Party

The Verwood party was held a week after the Bexhill one and raised £1,300 and another 8 sponsors. We would specifically like to thank Russell White for his donation of a signed Arsenal football shirt that was sold to a supporter for £100. As Mick is now a Barclays pensioner he was able to make use of their Matched Fundraising scheme which will give us another £750 on top of the money raised. Judy would like to thank everyone who helped both in the preparation of the food and on the day. Di, Trudi, Nikki, Anthea, Rosemary, Jenny and Graham. Also to Chris and Jean for all their help washing up especially as this was their first experience of one of our garden parties. Thanks also to Roger for the loan of tables and chairs.



Many thanks to Bexhill High School who raised £700 for sponsorship and school funds by various activities during the year. They are now sponsoring a boy in Upper Basic for 3 years and the balance of the money will go to buying equipment.

Anne writes "I travelled to The Gambia in June for 4 weeks and while you bathed in a heat wave it rained most of the time there. One of my jobs was to start to equip the new school (Upper Basic) with equipment etc. The main problem I encountered was that the text books for Grade 7 were not yet printed and at time of writing are still not in the book shops. This has meant that the Headmaster has been cobbling together a work plan from resources we have, for the beginning of term.

All the children have a new uniform for September and then another later in the year. Organising and measuring 300 children, buying material, having the uniforms made etc. is a time consuming job, but Malen (Nursery Head) has offered to take over this role and uniforms will be made on site in future. The end of the year is a busy time for everyone as there are exams to do, reports for sponsors and parents, parents open day, for the parents to come and discuss their child's progress etc.

This year we offered scholarship places for the Upper Basic to children whose families could not afford higher education. It was decided that they would sit the same exams as our Grade 6, but we would only offer places to them if they attained the same standard. Out of the 37 children who sat the exam only one managed to do that, and has been offered a place.

I would like to thank all the teachers for their tremendous efforts to raise the standards of the school. A special thanks to both Heads (Malen and Mr Dembajang) who have worked exceedingly hard this last term and relieved me of some of my work load."



Judy and Mick are very busy at the moment packing up about 25 boxes of books and equipment for the new science room in the Upper Basic school for shipment to The Gambia later this year. Many thanks to Helen Wray and Sue Smith for supplying us with the goods.

Hopefully by now all sponsors should have received their child's school report either by email or with this newsletter. If you have not received yours then please get in touch with Mick who will send a duplicate.

Just to remind everyone that the opening ceremony for the new Upper Basic School will take place on Wednesday 9th February 2011. At the moment it seems that we might have quite a crowd there.

While we are there we will be taking the class photos for the 2010/2011 classes and will be sending them out to sponsors later

in the month.

And finally a note from our headmaster Mr Dembajang:

"Extend our (the school's) sincere appreciation to all the wishers of DMF SCHOOL. They are all wished the best of luck in their worldly undertakings."

Although we have managed to get about 24 new sponsors over the summer we still need more. 30 children have just started this week as the new intake in the Nursery 1 class. Please pass this on to anyone you might think might like to sponsor a child, as Anne has mentioned in the past "[£5 a month is only the cost of a bottle of wine!](#)"

Please note the website address: www.donmcmath.org and the email address: info@donmcmath.org. You can also reach Anne and Mick via: anne@donmcmath.org and mick@donmcmath.org.

If anyone who currently receives this newsletter through the post is now on email could you please email us at the above email address so we can email you future newsletters as this will cut down considerably on our costs.

Anne, Judy and Mick McMath
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