



REHEMA TRUST
(Registered Charity No: 1175562)

Donor Update
August 2020

As well as thanking you as usual for your continuing support for the work of **Barbara Academy**, I must also thank you for your generous response to our **Covid-19 Appeal**, details of which were included in my **Donor Update – Special Edition** in May.

Thanks to your generosity, our appeal was fully funded, which has enabled us to provide the equipment needed to enable pupils of **Barbara Academy** to access the government's e-learning resources - including Radios and Smart Phones.

Our **Teachers**, who continue to be paid, also provide written learning resources and visit pupils at home to guide them in the use of these online and offline resources.

The **Feeding Programme** - with food collected from the school for consumption at home - continues to ensure that all pupils are adequately nourished.

A total of almost £2800 (incl Gift Aid) was raised, which has made it possible to establish a small **Project Fund** to help meet additional needs in the future. In response to recent power supply problems locally, we have already funded a new **Generator**, which is helping to ensure the production and distribution of learning resources is not interrupted – clearly much appreciated by the Staff!



Looking Ahead – Our Future Challenges

As our own news media constantly reminds us, **Covid-19** is a truly global pandemic and the **impact in rural Kenya** has been severe, although experts believe the peak has still to be reached. The loss of casual work opportunities has left many families unable to buy food and other essentials. **All schools closed in March and it has been confirmed they will not open until Jan 2021.**

In contrast to some other private schools in Kenya, your continued support means that we can continue to pay our **Teachers** and use their skills to support the pupils in their homes **BUT**

- Our original budget for our **Feeding Programme** excluded normal school holidays in August, November and December, whereas the **Rehema Trust Trustees** are keen to maintain a monthly programme in response to these exceptional circumstances
 - Even allowing for a contribution from the imminent harvest from the **YAWOSUP Farming Activity** locally, **an additional cost to Rehema Trust of at least £250 pm, or £750 for the remainder of this year**, will put pressure on our limited reserves
- In anticipation of schools re-opening in January 2021, and consistent with previous years, we also face the challenge of constructing **an additional classroom** to accommodate **Grade 6 pupils**, the final year of primary education under the revised school curriculum – **estimated cost £1800**

Our small **Project Fund** will not cover these additional costs and so, if you feel able to contribute in any way, in addition to your existing generous support, we will be very grateful.

Four years on since Barbara died, you have all contributed so much to build and strengthen her legacy at **Barbara Academy** but, as mentioned last year, we also continue to face the challenge that **our committed regular income still falls short of the regular costs of an expanding school**. We are therefore currently relying upon our modest reserves to fund the shortfall. If you felt able to make an additional donation, or perhaps encourage a friend or family member to support our work, either by way of one-off or regular donation, it really would make a huge difference. I would of course be happy to provide any further information, which may be required.

A Zoom Meeting Invitation!

Many of us have been learning new skills during the recent 'lockdown', possibly including mastering the art of video calls with family and friends. I am pleased to say that we are now able to communicate with **Edward Wata** via Zoom and, for those who will not yet have had the opportunity to see it, he was interviewed recently via Zoom on behalf of our Church by Liz Marlow (**Chair of World Mission Team**), which can be accessed via the following link:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6bomeHYbnY>
I am hoping to create the opportunity for our supporters to speak directly to **Edward** via Zoom at some stage in the future, so please do let me know if you would be interested in taking part.

I am very aware that **Covid-19** will be affecting all our lives in various ways, so special thanks are due for your vital support during these difficult times. Your support continues to encourage **Edward Wata**, the staff at **Barbara Academy**, myself and my fellow trustees, in our efforts to respond to the especially acute and exceptional current needs of this very poor local community in rural Western Kenya.

Please continue to check out our website – www.rehematrust.com – which has been recently updated.

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