

Where have your generous donations gone?

A Report from St. Justin's Group

The St. Justin's Group in our parish would like to thank all our regular contributors for your generosity and on-going commitment. You were all very generous in responding to our St. Justin's Christmas envelope appeal. We ensure that the money raised goes directly to where it is most needed. None of the money that we send in your name is spent on administration or staffing costs and we receive regular reports on how the money has been used. This is a short round-up of projects supported by you in the last couple of years.

Medical Missionaries of Mary

Money sent to the **Medical Missionaries of Mary (MMMs)** supported work in Itam in **Nigeria**. The MMMs have a ministry to women affected by obstetric fistulae, a childbirth injury that is almost entirely preventable, but all too prevalent in many parts of the world. Their work includes awareness-raising, fistulae repair camps and rehabilitation. Hundreds of thousands of women and girls around the world, including sub-Saharan Africa, are estimated to be living with obstetric fistula because mothers do not have access to timely, quality medical care. Sr Anne Mary Nakanjako, MMM has outlined other projects that we have helped in **Malawi**. The Sisters run a work training centre where skills such as sewing, tailoring, cooking, hairdressing and computer work are taught. They run health care programmes and schemes supporting children and young people. There is never a shortage of inspiring initiatives that we can play some small part in with our financial support. We usually leave it up to the Sisters to decide where our donations are needed most.

Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph

Money sent to the **Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph (FMSJs)** supported a home for children with disabilities, the St Francis Rehabilitation Centre in **Malindi on the Kenyan coast**. The Centre offers rehabilitation, outreach and advocacy for children living with disabilities. The other project our Parish supported was a feeding programme, which Sr Felistus runs for poor children in the school where she teaches in Malindi. The FMSJ Sisters work in a number of countries: including **Kenya, Uganda and Ecuador**. Sr Anne Moore told us that in Kenya they have a home for children with disabilities, a programme for street children and community health care programmes in various areas. These programmes cover mother and child health care clinics, HIV/AIDS awareness and support, nutrition services for malnourished children and feeding programmes for children in school. A number of the Sisters also work in a **Turkana Refugee camp** and with the **Karamajong people in northern Uganda**. In **Ecuador** they work with children who have special needs as well as working in the "recintos" with basic Christian communities.

Ethiopia

Funds were sent to **Fr. Stephen in Ethiopia**. This money helped towards the building of a shop for the Leprosy Committee in Ambo. The shop sells basic goods and it is anticipated that the shop will generate enough income to support four of the poorest people who are living with leprosy - those not even capable of begging. Fr. Stephen told us that the shop will create two jobs for a shopkeeper and a security guard. Additional money supported the **Ambo Lazarist Deaf School** and the Ethiopian deaf project – '*Giving Hands a Voice*'. Through the **Daughters**

of **Charity** working in Ethiopia, your contributions have also supported schools in Atse and Bulbula.



Children at the school for children whose parents have leprosy – Addis Ababa

Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe **Sr Eunice** gave us an update on the ‘Youth Alive’ (*Yazim*) project that we have been supporting. It is an interdenominational, peer support organisation empowering young people and equipping them with survival skills for them to become responsible citizens. The focus is on adopting and sustaining positive behaviours, attitudes and values. It envisions an AIDS-free Generation in Zimbabwe, where young people fulfil their dreams and ambitions with respect for human dignity. Currently it operates in Manicaland Province of Zimbabwe. Primary targets of Yazim programmes and activities are children and young people from marginalised communities, those from poor backgrounds and those living with disabilities. The work is undertaken in schools, communities, churches and homes.



Some of the young people involved in the Yazim project in Zimbabwe