

## A letter from the Trustees:

Our July Newsletter features a report just sent to us by Geoffrey Otieno following his monitoring visit to Innis and the women's groups we support. We're delighted that Geoffrey has some really positive news to share about all our projects and hope you enjoy reading about 'what happened next'.

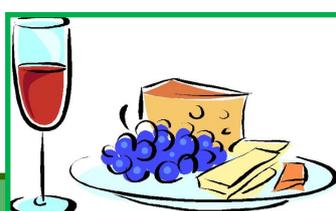


Our Curry Night at The Oruna, Market Drayton was a resounding success—good food, great company and £283 raised. This is an event we will definitely do again so please look out for our next dinner date! Many thanks to the staff at The Oruna, Market Drayton and to Sarah, Anne and Catherine for organising this event for us!

Our next fundraiser is being organised by Whitchurch Rotary, we are very grateful for their continued support for our work and hope that some of you will be able to join us. More details below.

Best wishes from Karen, Keith, Sue and Hazel

PS: You can now donate to Zest for Life via the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). Click on the logo to find out how.



## Cheese and Wine Evening

At the Bradbury Care Centre, Whitchurch

On Friday 16th August 2019

Doors open at 7pm

Tickets: £6 each to include a glass of wine.

All proceeds to Zest for Life and Whitchurch Rotary Club

For tickets Email: [mail@zfl.org.uk](mailto:mail@zfl.org.uk)

Or call: 07914 757799

## News from Geoffrey

Last month, we asked Geoffrey Otieno to undertake a monitoring visit for us to find out how the women's groups and Innis Primary have progressed in the 10 months since our visit. You may recall that we had secured funding for training for the women's groups in catering and poultry keeping and capital funding for improvements at Innis.

Geoffrey's report contains some super evidence of progress and improvements including:

- \* Catering: Increased cooking skills, for example, Pamela from SIATOK, now famous for her cooking skills, is invited to prepare meals for family and churches whenever they have functions. Diana is now engaged in several catering assignments for the St Monica catering group and is paid relatively higher than other women from her group during assignments.
- \* Poultry: Earnings from selling poultry have increased among women who adopted the practice after training and each member of SIATOK has constructed a poultry unit in their homes. Collectively, the women have purchased ballast and plan to construct a central poultry unit for demonstration purposes. This will be stocked with broiler chicken and is expected to boost the group's capability to fundraise via government grants.
- \* At JEFNA, increased cohesion has resulted in other women joining with three new members recruited, the larger community has developed more confidence in the group and relationships between JEFNA and SIATOK have improved. The income generated from the last few catering assignments has helped the women meet basic household needs, supplement school fees for their children and helped to improve living standards. The group has so far handled catering assignments for the church, weddings and funerals. Individual women have been able to raise as many as 40 chickens which has helped them generate income and supplement diet in their respective families.
- \* Both groups are keen to access further funding to increase the range of catering equipment owned by the group to enable them to cut down on hire costs and thus generate more profit.

At Innis there has been improved infrastructure following the construction of a 10-cubicle toilet block and an ECD classroom for little learners. The new Headteacher has been very circumspect in the allocation of the remaining funding and has managed to:

- \* Utilise timber left after construction of the ECD classroom together with broken benches from the church to have 32 strong desks made. 45 other broken desks were repaired resulting in new desks being created to serve learners who would otherwise be sitting on stones in class.



- \* Thanks to a good discount, books to the value of KShs 60,000 (£462) have been purchased. Use of reading materials has improved as students can now borrow the books to read over the weekend. More books are still needed, as they wear out fast with increased usage!



- \* Student numbers have increased to 340. The condition of 4 of the classrooms is a major concern as they are not up to standard and are overcrowded e.g. class 6 has 65 students in a room originally designed for 35-40. Coupled with the dilapidated floor, not only is learning hampered, but the rooms pose a health hazard. All 4 classrooms still require plastering and painting of inner walls, fixing of window panes, and general finishing including tiling floors to make them last longer. Renovating these 4 classrooms will cost a total of KShs 700,000 (£5,400). The boys toilets are also in desperate need of replacement.



We're really grateful to Geoffrey for this detailed report. Local fundraising will really help us to address some of the issues identified as well as supporting our porridge and education bursary programmes. So please come along to one of our fundraisers if you can.