

Hello from lockdown 3.0 in the UK - we hope this newsletter finds you well. Here is an update on all things Home of Hope!

### COVID-19 Update

We were devastated earlier this month to find out that COVID-19 had reached Home of Hope, with several members of school staff, Lucy and Rev Chipeta testing positive. Fortunately, all staff members, Lucy and Rev Chipeta have made a full recovery! On the right is a photo of the Rev in recovering in hospital – he is now home and back to his healthy 92 year old self and even made it into the local press! School lessons were suspended for two weeks but all of the students have returned this week. Amidst all the disruption, we so pleased to hear that 8 of the current Form 4 students have got University places!



### Christmas Appeal

Thank you so much for all your encouragements and donations on our recent appeal. Amazingly, we reached £2,600, which has been sent to Home of Hope.



### Harriet's Fundraising Story

One of our wonderful fundraisers is Harriet Gore. This is the story of her fundraising journey, and why it was so important to her.

“On a sunny winter’s day in December 2020 I was on a high having completed the final run of the NHS Couch to 5K programme and being well on my way to raising my £1,000 target for charity. Not bad for a 64-year-old woman eh?”

Completing this challenge was important to me for a few reasons. Firstly, I am a member of Coventry Soroptimists International. Soroptimists are an international women’s organisation. We work on grassroots projects that help women and girls achieve their potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in communities worldwide. Each year our Coventry club chooses a cause to support and having heard such good things from Dorcas Francis, one of our members, we chose Home of Hope! The global pandemic and lockdowns made fundraising difficult so I thought that asking for sponsorship for my running programme would be a great way of raising money.

Another reason for doing this challenge was to express my gratitude for a return to good health. I was diagnosed with breast cancer three years ago. I spent a year having some pretty awful treatment, a year recovering and a further year going through a physical and mental healing process; I wanted to do something to put it all in the past. Throughout my illness I was grateful to live in a country with universal free health care and was immensely thankful to the people who looked after me. I wanted to express my gratitude by doing something positive for people who are less fortunate than I am. I completed my final run on the third anniversary of my cancer diagnosis, and it felt like a huge milestone.

I completed the run and the money flowed in. In the end I raised £1,400 which was shared between Home of Hope and Coventry Haven – a women’s refuge. I was amazed by the generosity shown by my family, friends, neighbours and community, from the couple down the road in their 90’s to a neighbour I’d never met before, who came to my door with £100 for Home of Hope! I still try to run when I can and as I do I count my blessings; good health, love, prosperity and knowing the money I raised will support some beautiful children on the other side of the world. What more can a woman ask for?”

We are so proud of Harriet and so grateful for the work she has done! If you’d like to share a similar story, please do get in touch. We hope it inspires some of you to take part in our new fundraiser, 10 Miles for Malawi....

### 10 Miles for Malawi

We have launched 10 miles for Malawi, hoping to encourage friends, families and colleagues to walk, cycle, run, swim (etc!) 10 miles or more, so collectively we can travel the 6,630 miles from the UK to Mchinji. Getting sponsorship for this activity is one of our goals, but our main aim is to raise awareness of the wonderful work of Home of Hope so absolutely everyone can get involved! After 3 weeks we have already clocked up over 2000 miles (30% of the way there!) and raised over £500. We are hoping to complete the whole distance before the end of March.

For the technical among us, go to <https://worldwalking.org/groups/sgzou> to enter the distances travelled. You can see more instructions on how to take part via this Google Doc <https://tinyurl.com/28I5fxdc> and sponsors can donate directly via <https://worldwalking.org/fundraising/dr4cq>. If you prefer, email [joanne.addis@ntlworld.com](mailto:joanne.addis@ntlworld.com) with your distance travelled miles and donate sponsorship to Malawi Orphan Fund directly via our website.

### Protection for Education

At Home of Hope, the team continues to make sanitary pads to support the teenage girls at the Home. A recent donation was sent out to support buying buttons, soap, underwear and fabric to continue this great enterprise.

### Farm

The maize is growing well, and there is hope for a great Harvest in late April/early May. The tractor and truck provided in the last few years are already making a difference. Ken Mkangala who works with the Neno Macadamia Trust recently visited the Home of Hope to see how the Macadamia Tree Nursery was doing and is very impressed by how well the project is progressing!

