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Charity Number 1122571



## Immanuel Kindergarten 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

It's an incredible ten years since we started this project so this is to update you on the amazing progress your support has made possible over those years:

Some of you will remember that we launched the project with me doing a parachute jump on my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and we raised an incredible £2500. (Since then your generosity has enabled us to raise over £50,000!). We had hoped that Miriam the head teacher would have been able to meet many of you this summer to help celebrate this anniversary but unfortunately her visa was refused. We are considering whether to apply again next year.



From the small mud hut the children had when we first became involved housing two small classes of 30 children we have been able to help develop a three classroom school with toilets, kitchen, offices and outdoor play equipment.



In December I was able to attend the opening of the New School Hall and the graduation of 149 6 & 7 year olds from the Kindergarten ready to start their primary schooling at a local school nearby. The new school Hall was originally an initiative from the staff and parents and as the project progressed our charity made a substantial contribution from your generous gifts meaning that the hall was ready for use for the new academic year



in February.

The main purpose of the hall is so that the children can have somewhere to eat out of the hot sun or torrential rain!. It will also serve as an extra classroom giving an opportunity for each child in turn to experience more interactive and practical learning. This is not possible in classrooms with 120 children! The children are now able to attend for a full day and are given breakfast and lunch during their time in school.



The graduating children enter their new school achieving amongst the top 5% of the intake. The Kindergarten teachers work incredibly hard to teach the 350 children split between 3 classes and have recently been able to appoint two new teachers so that they can share the workload and give the children more individual attention.





You have also enabled a well to be dug in the school grounds. This has made a huge difference to the teaching staff and cooks who have previously spent many hours sourcing clean water for drinking and often having to purchase it. There is need for a solar pump and additional solar panels so that the well lid can be sealed for safety reasons and to prevent contamination. The water will be pumped into the large tank we purchased to collect rainwater.

I am now of course ten years older (you do the maths!!) so thoughts have turned to a way of celebrating our amazing achievement. Many of you know that water is not my favourite habitat but I have spent the last 15 months or so learning to overcome my fear of water and learning to swim. With the help of many willing (and some not so willing!!) volunteers we are holding a sponsored swim event on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are aiming to swim 600 lengths of a local pool which is approximately 10 miles.

As a result of our project other people are seeing the positive things that can be done for the young children of South Sudan. A good friend of mine comes from a village in South Sudan and the children don't have a school. The community would like to build a school but need funds to purchase equipment so that the local community can make bricks and cut down local teak trees to sell and create an income. My friend, Josephine, has visited Immanuel Kindergarten and the teachers are keen to support her project in any way they can. Another friend Paul is working on a similar community led project. A friend and former colleague, Naomi, with whom I worked in Juba 35 years ago and who has worked with Miriam is also involved in the development of a small school. Paul's and Naomi's schools desperately need some resources. I would like to share any monies raised from this event to help fund the initial stages of Josephine's project as well as help with some resources for Paul's and Naomi's projects. Our main focus as a charity will remain Immanuel Kindergarten but I feel all of these other projects are developing as a result of the example of our wonderful team in Yei and I would like to give them some help to move onto the first rung of the ladder.



If you would like to support us, please join us from 10.00.am on July 3<sup>rd</sup>

At: 3-1-5 Health Club Mannin Way, Caton Road, Lancaster, LA1 3PE

Join in the swim OR encourage the swimmers and enjoy the stalls and the general fun atmosphere . If you would like to join the swimathon please let me know by the 19<sup>th</sup> June.

There will be cake and fizz about 2.00pm for all to celebrate the amazing achievements of the last 10 years and to toast the next 10!

If you are not able to join us but would still like to support us you can do so by going to

<https://mydonate.bt.com/events/immanuelkindergartenswim/306548>.

(Some of you will realise this coincides with my birthday BUT please do not send or bring gifts. If you would like to give something please contribute to these worthy causes.)

Thank you again for your generous support over the last 10 years you have made such a difference to so many children's lives.

Best wishes Carolyn Murray