
THE SHARE FOUNDATION

Newsletter

Issue 1

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MISSION STATEMENT

The SHARE Foundation

The SHARE Foundation is a voluntary, non-governmental organization that was established to assist in the development of projects designed to alleviate human suffering and to improve the quality of life for destitute people in low-income countries. Besides acting as a fund-raising organization, SHARE strives to promote the exchange of education and widespread awareness of the plight of underprivileged people.

Who are we?

The SHARE Foundation was established in November 1999 by three Maltese medical doctors who have had various working experiences in Kenya. The hardships and suffering of people living in poor communities that also lack medical care have left an impact on the founders who are now hoping that they will find resources to make a difference in these people's lives.



Kenyan children in a greeting dance

In this first issue of SHARE Foundation's newsletter, we would like to introduce our readers to the current projects the foundation, the fund-raising and other activities and the achievements so far.

Our Projects

The foundation is presently working in association with an already established missionary religious congregation of the *Daughters of the Sacred*

Heart. The two ongoing projects are the **Kenya Clinic Project** and the **Limuru Children's Hope**.

- **The Kenya Clinic Project**

The idea of the **Kenya Clinic Project** was initiated in response to the growing needs of the people of Mpeketoni - a settlement scheme situated on the Kenyan Coast. The SHARE Foundation is collaborating with the well-established missionary congregation of the *Daughters of the Sacred Heart*. The Sisters working in the area have long felt the need for better health care facilities for the people of Mpeketoni.

The Clinic

The site of the project is on a plot of land in the village of Baharini on the coastal side of Mpeketoni. It was donated by the government

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for the building of a health centre. The health centre is officially named *Maria Tereza Nuzzo*, after the foundress of the congregation. However, for the purposes of campaigning, the name of *Kenya Clinic Project* was adopted. Phase one of the clinic consists of three wings that were constructed in 1999. Out-patient, maternity and limited in-patient services are being provided by paid staff including a clinical officer, state enrolled nurses and laboratory technologists. The out-patients section is attended daily by about 30-50 patients. There are usually between one to ten in-patients treated at the clinic. Patients are usually requested to pay for medicines at a subsidized rate. Subsequent phases including an operating theatre and patients' wards will be completed as funds are raised.



The Clinic at Baharini

The SHARE Foundation's aim

The Foundation's aim for this project is to collect funds to cover expenses of the purchase of equipment, the running of services, medicines and other necessary items. It is also seeking to collaborate with other organizations to improve the health of people using public health and health promotion measures particularly in the fields of sanitation and hygiene. Moreover, the foundation is trying to provide the necessary framework for specialist health care workers to be able to offer their services at the clinic.

• **Limuru Children's Hope**

Poverty, hunger and prostitution is the only world that the children of the shantytowns of Limuru know. The slum dwellers are struggling to survive through each day. The phenomenon of the urban poor is typified in Limuru's shanty-towns. Dreams of better living conditions are shattered as hopes for paid jobs fade. As a result, symptoms of urban alienation appear. Drunkenness, theft and rape are commonplace. Children become the innocent victims of a breakdown in the social and moral fabric of such poor communities. Many young girls are forced into a life of prostitution for a few shillings that would not even buy a bottle of soda. It is shocking to see little girls suffering from sexually transmitted diseases and boys engaged in the addiction of glue sniffing to help stave off hunger and cold.

The town of Limuru is situated in the highlands about 30 km to the North of Kenya's capital Nairobi.

In 1997 the Sisters were invited to Limuru to run a centre for women. The so-called St. Anthony Women Centre was set up with the aim of raising the dignity of women in this area. Having started to tackle the plight of women, the Sisters are now embracing the immense problems of the children - an unbelievable reality of the consequences of sheer poverty. Presently the Sisters are giving love, providing them with a daily meal and give them informal education to all children coming to the centre. They are now looking for benefactors who would like to help sponsor the building of a home to protect these children in need and an education that can help lift them out of poverty.



Limuru Children at the centre

Limuru Children's Hope is a campaign to increase awareness of the plight of the children living in the shantytowns of Limuru. All donations received will go towards building a home and educating the children.

Fund-raising activities and donations

• *Plant a tree for life*

Members of the Junior Chamber of Malta organised an interesting activity with the aim of raising funds for the Kenya Clinic project. The campaign - *Plant a Tree for Life* - was held at the Cage Bird Fair at the Trade Fair grounds in Naxxar and continued at St Aloysius school, B'Kara. The members of the Junior chamber and the students who keenly took part in the campaign sold pine tree seeds with a kit to promote their growth. The sum of 215 Lm was collected.

• *HSBC Bank donation cans*

Donation cans featuring the Kenya Clinic Project were placed in all HSBC Bank branches during the whole month November. A total of 428.35 Lm were collected.

• *Radio Show*

A live talk on the newly set up SHARE Foundation was radiocasted by the Public Broadcasting Services in

December 1999. Both the Kenya Clinic Project and the Limuru Children's hope featured in the programme.

- *TV show*

The SHARE Foundation and its project of the **Limuru Children's Hope** featured in an advertising campaign on Super One TV station on The Breakfast Show held on 6 and 9 March 2000. Telephone donation lines were made available for the whole day on 9 March 2000. This was achieved with the kind assistance of Maltacom. A total of 494 Lm was collected in aid of the children of Limuru.

- *Concert*

A concert was held at the British High Commissioner's residence San Pawl Tat-Targa in July 2000 in aid of the SHARE Foundations projects. The promotion given to the audience by H.E. Mr. Howard Pearce and the superb concert contributed to 312 Lm. The concert was given by Mr. Maxwell Spiers, pianist, Ms Angelica Camilleri, cellist and Ms Nadia Debono, violinist. They played trios by Haydn and Mendelssohn.

- *VOICES Concert*

The SHARE Foundation is delighted to have been a beneficiary of the popular VOICES concert held at the Mediterranean Conference centre in Valletta in October 2000. The Foundation and its projects even featured in the concert's programme.

The SHARE Foundation benefited the magnificent sum of 5000 Lm through this spectacular event. It was decided that the sum be equally split between the two presently on-going projects.

We are thankful to all the people who have contributed to make these events possible.

SHARE at CHRISTMAS

On Christmas day of 1999 and 2000, Santa Claus visited the



children's wards at St Luke's Hospital, Guardamangia on behalf of the SHARE foundation. Santa himself distributed the Christmas gifts.

Information leaflets

Attractively designed information leaflets printed in full colour and including bank account details were made available in October 2000. We are thankful to Mr Adrian Mamo who could make this possible.

Website

Information on the SHARE Foundation is now on-line at www.share-foundation.org. This was achieved with the generosity of website designer Mr. Mark Lightfoot of Mangion & Lightfoot Ltd. The site hosted by Webcraft Ltd, provides space for comments and feedback from internet browsers.

Other events

Rotary Club (Malta)

The SHARE Foundation was invited by the Rotary Club (Malta) to introduce the foundation and give a presentation on the Kenya Clinic Project. The event was held

at the Holiday Inn, Sliema in March 2000. The Rotary members showed great interest in this project and are finding ways to contribute towards supporting it.

International Ocean Institute

In June 2000, the SHARE Foundation participated in a seminar organized by the International Ocean Institute with a view of finding ways of collaboration to improve the health status of the people of Mpeketoni. The International Ocean Institute is accessible on the internet at www.IOInst.org.

Volunteer work

Architecture

Architects Mr Adrian Mamo and Ms Julie Lugosi submitted designs and plans for two wings of the clinic at Baharini, Mpeketoni after an on-site visit to Kenya in 1999. During their stay they also helped to assess and record the plight of the people of Mpeketoni. This was of basic importance in the creation of local awareness and the eventual setting up of the Kenya Clinic Project as a tool to provide support and material assistance.

Water engineering

Ing. Marco Cremona visited the clinic at Baharini in July 2000. Ing. Cremona evaluated the water supply at the clinic and recommended improvements. He has designed a water purification system including an UV system that would reliably disinfect the water provided at the clinic, without the need for boiling.

Limuru Children Sponsoring

The schooling and feeding of five Limuru children for 12 months each has been organized. A bank draft of 667 US\$ was sent to the Sisters of the *Daughters of the Sacred Heart* who will look after the children. At present, the education and feeding of a child in Limuru costs 5 Lm (about 11 US\$) per month.

Friends of the Foundation in the USA

Whilst on a visit in the USA, Dr Mark Muscat gave a slide presentation of The SHARE foundation's projects. This was made possible though the interest, support and generosity of an American family living in Virginia. The Plitt family organized an evening and disseminated information on the foundation's projects with friends and the Christian community in which they are active. Donations mostly for the Limuru children's projects are being collected though the awareness efforts that the Plitt family is undertaking. With their assistance the sponsoring of the education of the children in Limuru could start.

Material Assistance to the Clinic

With the purchase of a maternity bed for delivery and a 100 W solar panel, maternity facilities could start at the clinic even at night. These, together with hospital beds and linen purchased by the Sisters in Kenya, were funded by the foundation. Oxygen equipment

and medical books were also funded.

Meeting with the Bishop of Malindi

Last October the committee members had the opportunity to meet the new bishop of the diocese of Malindi, Mons. Francis Baldachino, whilst on a short visit in Malta. Mons. Baldachino was briefed on the aim of the SHARE Foundation and particularly on the Kenya Clinic Project which is located in the diocese of Malindi.

Meeting with the President of Malta

The committee members of the Foundation were delighted to introduce the SHARE Foundation and its projects to the president of Malta, H.E. Prof. Guido De Marco. The meeting took place in October 2000 at the President's office at the Palace in Valletta. The President, who has the subject of humanitarian assistance and voluntary work very much at heart, expressed his best wishes for the success of the foundation's project.

Meeting with the Prime Minister of Malta

At a meeting with the Prime Minister, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, held at his office at Castille Palace, the committee members had the opportunity to introduce the SHARE Foundation. Through this meeting the possibility of having government employed specialized health care workers working for time periods and on a basic salary paid by the government was discussed.

A word of thanks

We are grateful to all benefactors who have shown interest, supported and contributed in many ways towards the SHARE Foundation.

Donations

Anyone who wishes to make a financial contribution may do so by sending a cheque at the postal address of the foundation found on the front page or by making a deposit using the bank accounts listed below:

The Kenya Clinic Project

Bankers:

Bank of Valletta, Malta: A/C 112 0685 3024

HSBC Bank of Malta plc: A/C 11 413 5968

A US\$ Account A/C 112 0685 3040 is also available at:

Bank of Valletta

Mosta Road, Attard BZN 04, Malta.

(Swift code: VALL MT MT, Sort Code: 22-127)

Limuru Children's Hope

Bankers:

Bank of Valletta, Malta: A/C 112 068 530 37

HSBC Bank of Malta plc: A/C 11 413 5941

A US\$ Account A/C 4000103 603 76 is also available at:

Bank of Valletta

Mosta Road, Attard BZN 04, Malta.

(Swift code: VALL MT MT, Sort Code: 22-127)

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