



Franciscan Aid: Newsletter Summer 2017

Welcome to the latest Franciscan Aid newsletter, keeping you informed about our work with the world's poorest communities.

Farewell to Peter

The length of time our Board Members can serve without a break is six years. This means we must now say farewell to our excellent Chair, Peter Cannings. Trustees will miss his inspiring and charismatic leadership.

Peter has worked tirelessly to raise the profile of the charity, travelling around the UK giving presentations and answering questions. The rest of the Board are committed to continuing this work. So if you would like one of us to visit and talk about the work of Franciscan Aid, especially if you are from one of the few areas Peter didn't get to, then please contact our new Chair, Richenda Milton-Daws (richenda@ymail.com) or Secretary Angela Alexander (angela.alexander@hotmail.co.uk) to arrange a date.

The St Francis Outreach Trust – supporting children in South Africa

The work of the St Francis Outreach Trust with abused or abandoned children in Masiphumele, South Africa continues to inspire us. This picture shows children from the foster homes having breakfast together in the home of the Trust's business manager Michelle and her husband, while the foster mothers were away at a workshop.



Supporting the work of the First Order

At our last Trustees meeting we received a request for help from Leeds. Brother Benedict wrote: 'The First Order brothers have two small terraced houses in a fairly poor part of Leeds and for several years we have accommodated asylum seekers. The ones we house are those who have no legal status in the country. Some have applied for permission to stay in the UK but have had their petitions turned down by the Home Office or Courts. As such they are not entitled to work; they have been given no accommodation by the Home Office ... and they have no money from the State. Therefore, they are penniless.'

Board members were moved by this application and Peter reminded us that Franciscan Aid was originally set up to support the work of the First Order. We were therefore happy to agree to contribute towards this important work.

Note: Although the constitution of Franciscan Aid means that only people from Third World countries are eligible for financial help, it is their country of origin that matters. So we have been able to support a number of projects that help refugees and others living in the UK.

Visiting projects

We have been delighted to receive reports from Tertiaries who have been able to visit specific projects. If you are likely to be travelling in any of the countries where we might be supporting schools, clinics or other initiatives, please do contact Angela at angela.alexander@hotmail.co.uk in the first instance. If it is possible to put you in touch with someone working on the ground, she will be happy to do so.

Help from Areas

We are grateful to all Areas for their support, and it is particularly helpful when an Area takes an interest in a specific project.

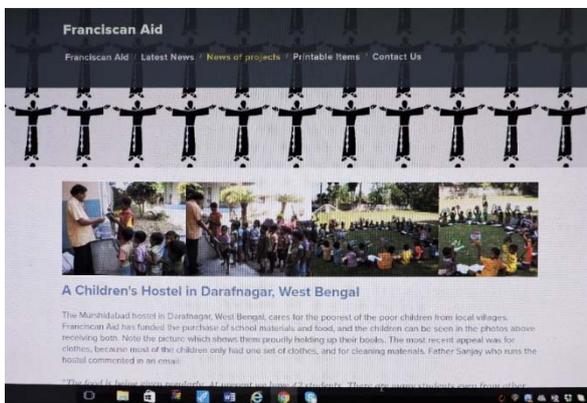
Lesley Anne Di Marco from Sussex area visited Sri Lanka recently and wrote to us about what she found. She explained that, on visiting the schools, 'we saw the small, simple buildings, which are cheerful and bright ... the children's work is beautifully displayed, much of the artwork using natural materials utilising available local resources. The playground equipment comprises swings and simple rope ladders.'

She continued by explaining that Franciscan Aid [with the help of one particular Area] has 'provided the outside play equipment for one pre-school and that is now operating satisfactorily. Two other pre-schools are still in the process of development. One is in great need of training aids for the teachers to use with the children; they require materials and resources as well as more play equipment.'

The development of these pre-schools is being supported by the two other Areas. We hope to be able to show photographs of the schools in the next newsletter.

Our website

For the latest updates on progress, projects and fundraising, go to www.franciscanaid.co.uk You will also be able to download back issues of this newsletter from the site.



A small gift, a big difference

Many of the requests that come before us are for modest amounts of money but they can result in a significant change for individuals. For example, earlier this year we were asked for the cost of a wheelchair, for an elderly lady who had been bedbound for years. We have received a touching letter of thanks and a photo of the lady, now enjoying being outside with her family.



Elsewhere we have been able to give money for hearing aids for a learning-disabled boy in Palestine, help with repairing computer equipment damaged by a lightning strike in Africa and contribute towards the cost of school books and other educational materials. We have paid for farm equipment and for beds in a maternity unit.

At our recent meeting, we agreed to pay for playground equipment for children living in very difficult circumstances, and for three more wheelchairs.

Thank you all for your support which enables us to respond positively to requests for help.

Please pray

For all the projects and initiatives mentioned in this newsletter, and for the Trustees who have to decide how to respond to all requests.

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