



## Franciscan Aid: Newsletter Spring 2023

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

Does your Local Group or Area collect for Franciscan Aid on a regular basis?  
Do **you** make a regular donation to Franciscan Aid? And if neither of the above, would you consider it?

**Trustees (especially our Treasurer!)** are particularly grateful to individual Tertiaries as well as to Areas or Local Groups who donate REGULARLY. There still remains confusion amongst Brothers and Sisters as to who receives regular payments. Franciscan Aid depends on individuals and groups for an income that can move to outgoings with the speed of light! Once we have spent/allocated the appropriate amount there is nothing more to be done. Would you consider making a regular donation to Franciscan Aid? We are very aware that money is difficult in the present climate, but every little helps, Trustees welcome a regular income, and like the Widow's Mite it will be hugely appreciated!

\*\*\*\*\*

As reported previously, we are delighted to be able to welcome Ministers from other Provinces to our Trustees' meetings. Last November Mandy Wheatley (Asia-Pacific) was able to join us for an hour (in Australia the meeting began at 8.00pm). She was complimentary to the Trustees, praising professionalism and experience combined with common sense. She explained the challenges within some of the Asia Pacific countries including Sri Lanka and Papua New Guinea. Franciscan Aid has been working with the First Order Brothers for many years and there is a good communication with them, however, although there were applications from Papua New Guinea some years ago there has not been any recent communication. Mandy also mentioned the needs of the refugees coming to Australia. The Secretary will send her FA leaflets/bookmarks for circulation and also some 'Franciscan Charism' books which are being sold for FA funds.

\*\*\*\*\*

Here are examples of some recent applications:

in **Uganda**, we received a request for money to enable a group to purchase the following: A solar pump, Lightning arrester, Poles and other fencing supplies, Chain link and skilled labour.

The applicant explained that "All those items are meant to replace the poor rusting pumping system that has spoiled water and made water smelly to the extent that the only bore hole nearer to the community is no longer usable. Because of that, children and women are at a risk of walking for a long distance looking for safe and clean water."

The application gave details of those who would benefit:

1. The community of Kaloko, and her neighbors outside them especially children and women.
2. Those vulnerable members who had been spending much money on treatment due to water borne diseases from contaminated water shared by animals and humans will be saved from that and they will be provided with safe, clean and Secured water from unnecessary tampering.
3. More so, mothers would have kitchen gardens around their houses. Youth would be doing horticulture for their incomes instead of being idol (*sic*) and disorderly.

*This work is currently ongoing, and we were pleased to be able to meet their request for help with price rises: We always welcome photos and reports from those who benefit so here is some of the latest news from Uganda...*



The commissioning of the water project.



Well, you have to start somewhere...



but things **are** moving on... ..



and up...



and up....

**An extract from a letter of thanks from the Pastor's wife**

*Praise our good Lord Jesu. I am the wife to Joseph*

*This funding is blessing from God to particularly to women and children who had been walking long distances looking for clean water, straggling on how to raise income for their families. With this funding you have provided us with clean water, women can have kitchen gardens around households.*

*Still with this funding we going to have secured fenced area as God blesses us farther we intend to expand our pig, goat and sheep project in this fenced secure area.*

*Thank you so much C\*\*\*\*\*, may God almighty bless keep, protect you as women of Kaloko we will always remember you out if this. Best wishes From Gaudence through my husband Joseph*

We look forward to pictures of the completed project.

\*\*\*\*\*

ACTION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (ACYP) is in a different part of Uganda, and we are always delighted to see their newsletters showing their work. This is a very small example...



Joseph M, aged 16, besides family small business, cares for six other siblings and the bedridden mother after the death of their father. They received support from Franciscan Aid Charity UK.

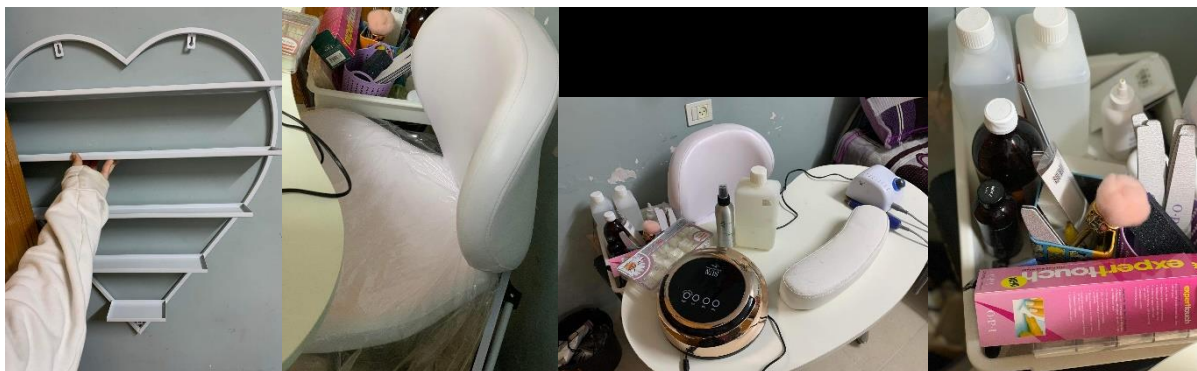
\*\*\*\*\*

I make no apology for going back to this charity in the Middle East...



This is a charity founded by a Franciscan Tertiary. He phoned to discuss a project and to ask if there was any chance that Franciscan Aid would support the request - it was certainly unusual – I don't think that we have given money for 'beauty products' before. PCDC wanted to say 'thank you very much indeed to Franciscan Aid for their kind support and grant for nail bar equipment for the young lady in Bethlehem. The young lady concerned has done training at College and is now able to work from a room in her Mother's house (her mother is an invalid) but she can also visit people in their own homes'. Sometimes it is good to support something that may appear slightly 'frivolous' – but the beautician is earning money to help her family, and how can we discount the pleasure given to many who, in their day-to-day lives, may encounter fear and violence?

**PCDC kindly sent us some pictures of the equipment purchased with the grant.**



Step this way... make yourself comfortable... Ready? Highly recommended!

**We believe in Practical Compassion!**

\*\*\*\*\*

Recently, contributions have been sent to Guyana, Sri Lanka, Bethlehem, Tanzania and Romania, as well as Ethiopia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. It has become evident how much difficulty is being felt around the world in the current financial situation. For many it is a matter of life or death, or choosing between food and education.

Contributions have been made to items as varied as solar panels, bathroom tiles, garden tools, training workshops, education, cancer medication, immunisation, mosquito nets and health insurance cards.

\*\*\*\*\*

**A Prayer for Franciscan Aid**

Heavenly Father, we are reminded in the Principles that Our Lord Jesus Christ came to serve others, and that Tertiaries' chief form of service is to reflect the love of Christ. As St Francis vowed to follow His Lord, grant us the strength to work for the relief of pain and suffering, sharing the generosity of our Sisters and Brothers with integrity, care and love. **Amen.**

\*\*\*\*\*

---

## ***Please pray***

- For all the projects and initiatives mentioned in this newsletter;
- For the trustees who must decide how to respond to all requests;
- For more volunteers to come forward as potential trustees.

---

## **POTENTIAL SPONSORS**

Please note that the next 2 meetings of the Trustees will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> June and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023. If you wish to sponsor a request, then forms should be submitted to the secretary well before the meeting dates.

If you need assistance with submitting a request do feel free to contact us.

We hope to have an article from a current sponsor in the next newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

Franciscan Aid can presently be accessed through the TSSF website front page under 'Links'.

We are working on being able to share more information on the website about the wide range of projects we sponsor in many different parts of the world. The work they are involved in brings hope, dignity and a purposeful future for those involved.

\*\*\*\*\*

Should you wish to donate to Franciscan Aid, Gift Aid is **not** covered by a general form for the Franciscans. A Gift Aid form is attached to this newsletter. This should be returned to our Treasurer at the email address below.

\*\*\*\*\*

We have been asked if it is possible to give bank details in the newsletter making it easier for individuals to make a donation to Franciscan Aid. Those details follow...

### **UK Bank details for countries sending money to Franciscan Aid from outside the UK:**

#### **FRANCISCAN AID**

Name of Bank:	Lloyds Bank
Address of Bank:	Cheapside P.O. Box 1000, Andover, Hampshire, UK (correspondence only)
Bank Account No:	00187638
Sort Code:	30-91-83
Reference:	(Name of donor)
BIC/SWIFT CODE:	LOYDGB21236
IBAN NO.	GB!(LOYD 3091 8300 1876 38.

\*\*\*\*\*

***Franciscan Aid: Chair: Caroline Ugbo ([cjugbo3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cjugbo3@hotmail.co.uk)); Secretary: Angela Alexander ([secretaryfaf@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryfaf@gmail.com)); Newsletter Editor: Brenda Hewitt ([brenda.hewitt43@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.hewitt43@gmail.com)); Treasurer: Guy Buckler ([gbuckler@hotmail.com](mailto:gbuckler@hotmail.com))***