



SI MANCHESTER PROGRAMME ACTION NEWSLETTER

May 2020

MESSAGE FROM BARBARA

Welcome to our first newsletter focusing on Programme Action. It contains updates on the activities of our key partners and the support we have provided. It is of course disappointing that our face to face projects have had to be curtailed during these challenging times, but we are still finding ways to help where we can, both as a club and as individuals. We are planning for a Programme Action focussed Zoom meeting on the evening of Tuesday June 2nd – look out for more details soon - but if you would like more information on any of these activities in the meantime, do please get in touch.

MANCHESTER WOMENS AID

We are all aware that with families spending more time at home, the risk of domestic abuse is greatly increased. So our support for MWA is even more important at this time. On a positive note, housing has been found for some of the women that we know, but it is a big step to move from the security of the refuge to an independent life. We were delighted to donate £100 to provide some of the furnishings needed and a couple of members have also donated curtains etc.

Our latest donation of £200 from the Dale-Johnson Education fund, has been used to buy activity materials and gift cards for the children in the refuges.



A special thankyou to Witzigs Games in Norfolk who vey kindly provided us with twice the number of hula hoops that we ordered for the same price 😊

DONATIONS

Our first round of donations was warmly welcomed by the recipients



Women Matta were given £100 of Asda vouchers. Here's what Hannah Morowa said to us *"It's really nice to have the support at this time...any donation is always appreciated, every bit makes a real difference. We're trying to provide food/toiletries packs for service users who are self-isolating and in financial difficulty at the minute"*



MASH were given a direct donation of £100 and we received this feedback from Fundraising officer

Janelle:

"Wow. Thank you ever so much for your generosity. Your support at this challenging time really means a lot and through our suppliers £100 will really go a long way when we're putting our emergency packs together"



We have also sent a cheque for £200 to New Hope Rural Community Trust to assist with the COVID-19 response in Orissa. Jill Ghanouni acknowledged the donation, saying *"We really appreciate this gift - the timing is absolutely perfect as I've been receiving news of the impact on food costs due to India's lock down situation and it is alarming how extensive this is"*

We know the donation will be put to good use.

ACT4AFRICA UPDATE



Uganda is of course affected by COVID-19; the country is in lockdown and its borders are closed. All schools closed in mid-March, including Kathy's Kindergarten and the schools attended by our "Grow a Girl" participants; the latter are in desperate need of home learning packs, books, etc. The charity currently has an urgent online COVID-19 Appeal on Virgin Money Giving, with the bulk of the funds supporting continued access to education for these girls. If anyone would like to donate, here is the link:

[Act4Africa Urgent COVID-19 Appeal](#)

Thanks to a donation from another local group, the Uganda team were able to take part in work to support the local response to Covid-19. This included:

- Procuring items of PPE - surgical gloves, facial masks, hand sanitizers – and delivering these to district health office
- Conducting a 30 minute radio talk show to disseminate key preventive information on COVID-19. The talk show received good feedback from both officials and listeners.



Patrick handing over PPE at the District health office



Patrick and Harriet representing Act4Africa on the radio talk show

Fundraising is really important to the Charity at the moment so if you are feeling "crafty", how about taking part in Act4Africa's annual Scarecrow Safari? Find out more at: [Act4Africa Scarecrow Safari](#). Or having a clothing clear out? Have a look at the [Thrift+](#) website (DONATE button), where you can "sell" your clothes online, and donate the proceeds to charity. And don't forget to save those used printer cartridges! 😊

SNIPPITS

We have had several responses to our club survey about environment projects. If you haven't completed yours yet, there's still time – here is the link:

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/SIM Environment](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/SIM_Environment)

Have you read the May edition of Soroptimist News yet? Delighted to see that our involvement with the #ApronMania project with Manchester Women's Aid got a mention.

Finally, do you remember our club speaker from **Medical Detection Dogs**? The charity is now at the forefront of the fight against coronavirus with 6 dogs soon to be trained to recognise the disease. You can read more [here](#)

♥♥♥♥STAY SAFE, AND HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL SOON♥♥♥♥