

Operation Imprezza
 HELPING THE EDUCATION OF AFRICA'S FUTURE
www.operation-imprezza.org
 Registered Charity Number: 1113535

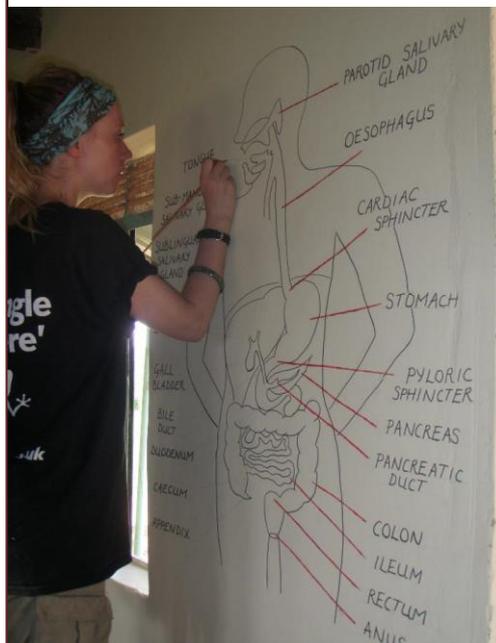
News From Kenya and Home

Torquay Girls' Grammar School visit with World Challenge

Imprezza was one of the most inspiring projects that we as a team will ever experience and because of our time there in the summer, it has become close to all of our hearts. It was a privilege to help out in any way we could just to improve the lives of those who had no families and barely any money. During the days we helped by painting the school and the bungalow, cleaning the premises, fetching water, planting trees, putting up a school sign, handing out clothes we had brought over from the UK etc. To see the children's faces as they put on their new clothes was awe-inspiring and we all felt that we had changed some people's lives. Something as simple as a dress that would cost no more than £10 in the UK made one child feel that someone was looking after them.

When we arrived, they welcomed us with open arms despite being incredibly nervous and shy introducing themselves. After the introduction, they helped put up our tents and let us settle in which included cooking a huge meal for all of us and all of the children who stay at the bungalow. Every night, we'd share the load of the cooking; some of us would prepare the rice or the fruit and so on.

Working in the new classroom.



We all felt the Imprezza motto which was 'Positive attitude is excellence' and their welcome to us made us feel like part of the Imprezza family. Many of the children even called us their sisters which was extremely heartfelt and we all felt emotionally tied to them. Every night after dinner we would all group together and dance and sing to one of their favourite songs which was 'Sawa Sawa le'. All of the young children would dance with huge smiles as if they had no troubles which was truly incredible.

During the week, we felt like we had made a difference at the school, the bungalow and even within the community. At the final goodbye party, children from the local community joined the celebrations which involved lots of food, dancing and singing. All of the girls got involved and we danced together showing the integration between Imprezza and Torquay Girls' Grammar School. Many of the pupils were very sad when we left which resulted in a lot of crying from them and us! However, we had managed to buy a lot of food, clothes and other things in order to make their lives easier. Catherine and her sister Rose made the whole week extremely exciting and without them it wouldn't have run so smoothly so a huge thank you to them.

To summarise, Imprezza has become one of the most incredible things we as a team will ever achieve. Since we have returned, we have done a few assemblies to encourage support from the girls at TGGS and they have responded well with some donations already starting to appear. However this could be pushed more and we know that Imprezza still need more things such as a new classroom for the primary school, paint for the lab and the library at the secondary school etc. We are now trying to raise enough money to make sure this happens to ensure that Imprezza can survive. It is a worthwhile project, which if enough people support it will become a success ensuring that many students can fulfil their aim of studying in order to get a job.

Report by Laura Bradshaw on behalf of the Kenya Team

eden project
 gardens for life

Check out the **NEW** website for news and fundraising events
www.operation-imprezza.org

Emergency Appeal

Due to the worst drought in Kenya in over 60 years food prices continue to rise and inflation is running at 17%.

The value of the Kenyan shilling has fallen significantly making imports even more expensive and this affects fuel prices which then have an impact on everything else. In the last week of my recent visit, a tin of maize went up by 6 Kenyan shillings and now costs 2 days wages, the same as a loaf of bread. Those living either below average or without employment (well over 60%) receive no benefits in Kenya. It is no wonder food poverty is affecting the vast majority of the population where the school is. The effect on the school is the same as the money raised does not buy as much as it did a year ago. We are constantly trying to just keep up. We know this is a difficult economic time globally, but if you are able to donate any amount to our emergency appeal or would like to host a fundraising event then please contact us at the email address, every penny raised is important.

info@operation-imprezza.org

or telephone. 01626 777419

You can also text your donation to 70070 and use the code OINS01 and the amount you wish to donate ie OINS01 £5 Thank You

'A typical day in the life of the school'

On Monday we went up to school for a welcome ceremony and meeting with staff and some students. *A typical day in the life of the school'* Catherine said to me later - she just accepted the difficulties encountered as part of life and made the best of things. It certainly wouldn't be a typical day at school in the UK! Education was hardly mentioned. At morning assembly around the flag a lad collapsed with a suspected epileptic fit. We settled him down and sent him home by taxi motor bike, with instruction to go very slowly and to let us know when he was back.

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'even those without hope can excel given the opportunity.'

Our Mission is to enable students, both boys and girls, who would not otherwise have any access to secondary or decent primary education to succeed.

His gran took him to the doctor who prescribed medicine but that was all their money used up. He will be on this medicine ideally for ever, his Grandma wants him to come and live at the bungalow as she can't afford to keep him. Sadly we have no room nor can we afford the medicine.

Then one of the orphans who stays at the bungalow came to us with a very swollen face around her eye, conjunctivitis was suspected. It was very sore, so she was sent to the clinic with another girl for company plus ksh200. That paid for the nurse and medicine. We sent her home then and she was back at school today. We then had a very difficult situation, where a girl had been missing for 6 weeks, Catherine had been searching to find her as she was very concerned for her safety. She had not been to school as their house had been damaged and the thatch was letting water in. They had tried to move but could not find anywhere. This was hardly surprising with no money, 5 children and a Grandmother. The girl had been at home trying to find somewhere to live. We have paid for new thatch which will be done in the next few days so the girl can settle back to her studies. The girl and her brother want to come to live at the bungalow but again there is no room, we will review the situation in the future.

It was great seeing old faces and making friends with new ones. As usual the students have so many problems to face in life and yet are so welcoming and focussed on doing well at school.

On the Monday we went up to the school and it was marvellous to see the progress made. The site management which has been handled by Catherine, along with everything else she manages, never ceases to amaze us. We have used local labour for the building and this has meant that 11 families including 5 who are HIV positive have benefited with decent food and were not spending their wages in local bars,. We pay a decent wage (at least double what they can earn working for others) which means people look after us and are reliable.

Chris Hulme



A HUGE thank you to Bob Cross who completed his skydive recently!!! Anyone can still donate to Bob to help reach his target using www.justgiving.com/Robert-Cross1