



JMJ Children's Fund of Canada

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the U. N.

NEWSLETTER June 2020

Friends - This covid lockdown leaves a lot to be desired. The best we can do is "offer it up" and that is not easy. In any case we are in the same little leaky canoe as everyone else except that JMJ people are not homeless, hungry or insecure. We at JMJ have been meeting virtually - which has its disadvantages, but nothing that cannot be coped with. We have received a report and an appeal from India, and a report from Sister Monica in Ghana, both of which follow.

From INDIA

Greetings from the Sisters of Maria Auxilium, Chennai We hope that you are doing well through the Grace of God and we are grateful for all you are doing for the children of Anuppampattu and Kanniyambakkam. Here is our report.

During the Christmas celebration the children and their parents prayed for you and your families, and we extend our best wishes for the New Year. On Dec. 12, 2019 we celebrated Christmas with the children, providing them with clothes and other needs.

During our routine visit to their families, we check their general health issues such as anemia, malnourishment, scabies etc. Considering these issues, we have purchased medicine, tonic, first aid box, vitamin tablets etc., and distributed these to the families of the children. A special medical checkup was conducted for the children with the help of the qualified doctor and a medical team. Around INR 8,000/- has been spent towards this intervention.

Most of the children are studying in the Government Schools which are not highly equipped and competent to give better education. After school hours, the children are unable to complete their home work and study in their home by themselves. Hence we have been conducting Evening Study Centres in both the villages with the help of the animators.

Around 50 to 60 children are studying in each Centre from 1st to 10th standard. This intervention has created a great impact among the people and enhanced the standard of education of

the children. Along with coaching of the formal education, talent formation such as singing, dancing, drawing, drama, speech and essay writing have been also taught during evening study. Sports programs have been conducted for the children. Many of the school dropouts were enrolled back into the schools.

All these initiatives had a positive impact. Our team was able to plan and implement activities to accommodate the needs of the students. The children were provided with school supplies, clothes and uniforms. Children were motivated to perform well in school, and to advance. They will be able to continue their studies, without difficulties and to achieve their goal in life. Allowing them to use our facilities to study provided an atmosphere conducive to study and paved the way towards enhancement of literacy in rural areas.



Dear Mr. Frank Pantano, I am highly pained to note that people in many countries have been highly affected due to COVID 19. We pray to God to restore the people soon and ensure peace. In India, our State is one among the drastically affected areas. The virus has crippled the normal life of the people. The adjoining districts such as Ranipet, Vellore and Tiruvallur in Tamil Nadu have been still under threat of this killer disease. Since the Tiruvallur district is very close to Chennai which is considered to be a Red Alert Zone, the people are highly affected and left without even a meal. Especially children and aged people are drastically affected. Schools are closed and examinations are postponed. Hope the next academic year may

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commence in the first week of August 2020.

During our recent visit to the area, we have seen the suffering of the people especially without even basic needs. Right now the need of basic requirements such as rice, groceries, sanitizers etc., are the most essentials to immediate restoration of the people. At this crucial juncture, we would be happy to receive your timely help especially basic relief measures to console the people in a possible way. Kindly pray for the children as well as to the people of Kaniyambakkam and adjoining villages.

Once again we pray to God to bless you all abundantly! Thanking you,

Sister Josephine Selvi

From GHANA:

We are glad to forward to you our report on the grant in the amount of US\$5653.46 which JMJ so kindly granted us for the upkeep of children in Ghana. The amount was exchanged for GHC29340.48. (twenty nine thousand three hundred and forty Ghana Cedis only). We are also forwarding to you a receipt from the bank to enable you understand better the report we are sending.

With what you sent us, we have been able to provide for the basic needs of the sponsored children. We have paid tuition, purchased books, uniforms and food for all the children. As a result, the children have stayed at school uninterruptedly, and are doing very well. They are also happy. From all indications, the future is bright for these young ones who otherwise would be condemned to ignorance, poverty, abuse and all forms of inhuman conditions children go through because their parents don't even know there is anything wrong with the deprived and poverty situations they find themselves in. They are so used to suffering that it has become a normal part of their lives.

On behalf of the children, their parents, and on behalf of myself, I wish to thank all our kind-hearted and generous benefactors and J.M.J. Children's Fund for all you do for our children, We pray for you al ways, and



Ghana's Twins and Triplets

know that God will answer our prayers by granting you more all the days of your lives. We will remain ever indebted to you;

These are difficult times for all of us. In Ghana, 130 cases of the coronavirus have been recorded. The figures may be bigger as very few people have been tested. It is like, we are sitting on a time bomb which may explode any moment. God save us!

As a global pandemic, no part of the continent is spared. We would therefore like to assure all our sponsors and JMJ of our constant prayers for you whenever we pray for ourselves. We do that all the time now. We ask God to shield all of you and your families so that you may continue his work of supporting his poor and vulnerable children.

We should like to use this opportunity to thank you for what you do for our children. Your support is making a tremendous impact in the lives of children.

Our children are as intelligent as children in any part of Ghana. This is the part of our country that is looked down upon. This was when our children were not allowed to participate in quality education.

Report on the Grant of \$5583.24 (US) for the upkeep of needy children

<u>For Seven Senior High School Students, (US\$)</u>	<u>(GHC)</u>
TUITION	1,000.00 5,190.00
BOARDING	800.00 4,152.00
BOOKS	800.00 4,152.00
TOTAL	2,600.00 13,494.00

<u>Amount for 12 other Children</u>	<u>(US\$)</u>	<u>(GHC)</u>
TUITION	1,000.2	5,191.25
BOARDING	1,080.00	5,605.20
BOOKS	500.00	2,595.00
UNIFORM	403.00	2,091.57
Total	2,983.24	15,483.02
Total Grant	5,583.24	28,977.02

With the exposure and education you are giving them, we realize that children are the same every - where, if conditions are improved or if the "playing field is levelled equally for all" - our children look beautiful, clean, they are confident, intelligent, healthy and happy. This is all your work. We are very grateful to you and pray constantly that God rewards you even more than you give us.

Sister Monica Otoo

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