



TOUCH Ireland is a totally voluntary charity with no salaries paid to any member.  
100% of donations for our projects go to our projects.



In Lusaka we visited three Community Schools to do reports on Child Sponsorship and see how the schools were getting on. These were St. Michael's, St. Patrick's and Guardians Angel's. It was good to see the children again and glad they are all doing well.

## Welcome to our Summer Newsletter '17

### TOUCH Ireland Zambia Visit April/Mav '17

In April/May '17 we visited TOUCH Ireland projects in Zambia. This was a demanding trip driving over 5,000 KM in temperatures in the mid 30's. However it was also a most rewarding trip seeing all the good work that TOUCH Ireland is achieving on the ground in Zambia. Here is a snapshot of the projects, people and children.



We are always amazed when we meet a bright child who has excelled in very difficult conditions. We met Phedester today who has really excelled in school in Grade 6. She will be doing her Grade 7 next year. She is a very clever girl and really needs the chance to further her education. We are always looking for sponsors for children like Phedester.

After Lusaka we headed down South to Mazabuka to visit Kaleya Community School where we have another Child Sponsorship scheme. On arrival we met Sr. Andrea and the other Sisters for a cup of tea and home made bread. We then spent a couple of hours with the children doing the reports and are happy that all is going well. Then we went and visited the Flamboyant Special Needs School where TOUCH Ireland has built the Activity Centre. It was lovely to see all the great work that is being done here with such limited resources.



Far Left: Sr. Andrea with some students of Flamboyant Left: are Children from Kaleya School

### Donate to TOUCH Ireland

You can donate by PayPal on the TOUCH Ireland Website: <http://touchireland.net/>

By Cheque made out to TOUCH Ireland or by Cash

Please send your Donation to TOUCH Ireland, 17 Monread Meadows, Naas, Co. Kildare

## TOUCH Ireland Zambia Visit (contd.)

Our final project to visit in Lusaka was the Chipata Nutrition Centre. This was also funded by TOUCH Ireland and now gives nutritious meals to the children in the local compound. In 2018 we will send our next Aid Container to Chipata as they are constructing a new School on land sourced by TOUCH Ireland.



### Kitwe Projects - Copperbelt



On Easter Monday morning we headed on a 7 hour journey to Kitwe. We arrived in Kitwe we headed to Day Springs in a thunderous shower of rain. It was great to see all the children at the girls centre and how they have grown again in a year. As always we were greeted with singing, dancing and happy faces. This was followed by taking the child sponsorship photos and getting reports on the children. The next morning we were back at the Drop in Centre for the Food Programmes. There were a lot of children about 200. The Food Programmes now only takes place once a week as this is all they can afford to do. (Photos Left: Kitwe Food Programme)

They really need more support with this as the children so desperately need the nourishment the meal provides. To see the conditions that still exist in the compounds (Shantytowns) around Zambia is heartbreaking as there is true poverty, which can be seen from these photos.

### Projects – Western Province

Sepo Food Programme in Kaoma where 56 children receive food three times a week. These are some of the very poor children from the local compounds. Hats and ponchos were distributed by TOUCH Ireland from supporters that knitted them in Ireland. This programme is funded by TOUCH Ireland and run by TOUCH Zambia.

The next phase of our trip would take us west to Kaoma 600Km approx. from Lusaka.

Next we visited Kaoma Hospital where TOUCH Ireland funded the Pediatric Wing. It is looking fine and we distributed a lot of hand knitted items to sick children and also Mothers and babies in the Maternity Unit.



Sepo Food Programme



Kaoma Hospital

**Kaoma Child Sponsorship:** This is made up of children from the Cheshire Home and children from the community

We then traveled a further 200Km to Mongu to visit the WHISPER Centre. Mongu is on the edge of the Kalahari Desert and was a heavy 32deg. Good to see the mothers and their babies benefiting from this centre funded and supported by TOUCH Ireland.



Some of the children in Kaoma



Mothers and children at WHISPER

On Our visit we supplied badly need baby formula for the malnourished children which was funded by our friends in TOUCH.

### Mangango Community Projects

We left Kaoma at 08.30hrs and headed to Mangango which is 25kms into the bush on dirt roads. We had blue skies and a temperature of 29 degrees.

In Mangango we have a child sponsorship scheme in two schools: Namalazi and Kalundu. The construction of both schools was funded by TOUCH Ireland. These schools are in a very dry, almost desert like area and the people are very poor, struggling to make ends meet. TOUCH Zambia also runs a food programme 4 times a year at both schools as part of the child sponsorship also funded by TOUCH Ireland.



Kalundu is a new school recently built by TOUCH Ireland and opened in September '16

We had a very rewarding day and could see that the children are growing strong and healthy as a result of the sponsorship and food programme.

Top Left: Kalundu  
Left: Namalazi

### Opening Chipapa Training Centre Extension

The final phase of our visit took us back to Lusaka for the opening of an Extension to the Women's Training Centre.



Pauline with Rosie who we sponsor on a Catering Course



Students at the Training Centre

The extension to the Tailoring consists of a manufacturing room, shop (to sell goods made) and store room

When we arrived there we were greeted by a mix of Tailoring and Food Nutrition students at the centre with singing and speeches. After the handing over of the new building the Sisters invited us all to lunch. It was a lovely day and great to see the centre doing so well.

### New Projects Zambia 2017

As a result of our recent visit to Zambia we are about to embark on two new School Projects.

Kandongo Community School Block in Mangango. After we visited the area in May '17 agreed to fund the construction of a three Classroom Block with a Storeroom and Office. This will cost €25,000.00 approx.

Fundraising for this project has now commenced and some funds are available. The construction has just commenced and we hope to finish this project before the start of the rainy season in October. Over 200 children will attend this school.

<http://touchireland.net/kandongo-community-school/>



St Michael's Community School Block in Lusaka. In July 2017 TOUCH started construction on the third School Block which is due to be finished in November. This New School Block will incorporate a Computer Room to facilitate a Computer Programme. As a result of this new School Block St. Michael's will be able to cater better for the amount of children seeking an education. Over 800 children attend this school.

<http://touchireland.net/st-michaels-community-school-phase.../>



## Jalbire Water project - Nepal



This is the latest project to be funded by 'Help Nepal Rise Again' in conjunction with TOUCH Ireland and the Lions Club of Kathmandu. Jalbire district is a five hour journey from the capital of Nepal, Kathmandu.

To date we have rebuilt 27 Family homes that were destroyed by the earthquake, built a new school block and started a child sponsorship scheme in Jalbire.

<http://touchireland.net/jalbire-water-project/>

## Fundraising Events

### Well Done Brian & Damien

**'Heart is the difference between those who attempt and those who achieve'**

Thanks to Damien Ward for his support to fund the construction of a new School Block for the children of Kandongo. Please see:

<http://touchireland.net/kandongo-community-school/>

Damien completed the Blessington Triathlon in June.

Brian O'Brien completed a 50Km run in aid of TOUCH Ireland

Brian ran the Waterford Greenway (46km – Waterford to Dungarvan) plus a little bit extra for good measure. 50km is the minimum distance to which you can attach the term 'Ultra'. The funds that Brian raised will go to a Food Programme for children in Bangladesh.

<http://touchireland.net/bangdalesh/>



### Women's Mini Marathon

**Well done to all the ladies that took part in the Women's Mini Marathon for TOUCH Ireland Projects.**

## The Positive TOUCH Album Launch

The Positive Touch  
A Concert for the  
Benefit of Touch  
Ireland Charity Projects.

Paddy Casey  
The Devlins  
Gavin Glass  
Plus Special Guests.

Support From  
Keith Blunlett  
Simi Thiel  
Davie Furey  
Katie Gallagher  
Elyd

Sponsored by Downda Road  
Productions & Radio Nova

A Great Night of Music for a Great Cause Paddy Casey, Mundy, The Devlins, Gavin Glass all launched the TOUCH Ireland Charity Album 'The Positive TOUCH' at the Workman's Club on Thursday 29th June. They were supported by some great emerging talent also on the night, It was a great nights entertainment and it's all for a good cause.

Why support this cause? In Nepal at present there is no dedicated hospital for children suffering from severe psychiatric disorders, such as schizophrenia and bipolar / unipolar depression, etc. If children need admission to a hospital due to a psychiatric illness, they are often housed in an adult psychiatric inpatient facility.

We aim to change this by helping to fund a Centre of Excellence in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry in Kathmandu.

We cannot let this continue. This project will be a big challenge and we need everyone's support to make this a reality for these vulnerable children.

You can make a real difference by supporting this event.

**This great Album is available 'NOW' from TOUCH Ireland at a cost of €10 plus €2 p&p (Ireland)**

## TOUCH ethos:

*All children have a right to food, shelter, education and basic care.*

**We believe that all people regardless of race, religion, gender or status in society are equal and entitled to the basic needs to survive and develop**



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