

Friends of NdiMoyo (FONM) at home and in far away places – April 2010



There was a huge response to the December 2009 newsletter which included a letter from Lucy giving an historic overview of the development of NdiMoyo. All of you were inspired by what can be brought to birth and sustained through the courage, dedication and compassion of Lucy to follow her vision and the leading of her heart to reach out to suffering people, and you were touched by what your support and help contributes to this story of compassion and love.

“The work they do is inspirational and they have way more stamina than people in their prime. The passion they have for their project, patients and staff is inspirational, they never stop... The work at the Centre is incredible and the standard of palliative care by Lucy and her team is as good as or better than care here. They never hurry their patients and despite some serious symptoms, there is always the sound of laughter as they interact with their patients”.

These are the words of Sue Cooper who has just returned from a volunteering visit to NdiMoyo. Sue's reflections inspire and energise us to further increase our efforts to provide funds for the NdiMoyo Palliative Care Centre in Salima.

This newsletter comes at a time when there are many natural disasters happening in the world, and there are many calls on our generosity but the complete giving and untiring efforts of Lucy and her Team move us to increase our own efforts to ensure that every sick patient who calls on their help and expertise can receive the support and medical treatment they need. This is a chance to make an enormous difference with a little help



The difference that your donations make is so substantial; it is hard to translate this into words as the reflected value is in the care that is enabled through the nursing team, headed up by Lucy Finch. For those of us who have been privileged to visit NdiMoyo and be part of her vision, it has been a life changing experience to be inspired by her inexhaustible giving of self.

NdiMoyo has passed the 500 mark in palliative care patients who have been registered with NdiMoyo Malawi since we opened our doors in August 2006. Living patients currently under intensive/regular care number 233 with perhaps a further 10 or so on our books who feel sufficiently well/free of their cancers/HIV complaints that they do not come in to the clinic (mainly men I think). Usually within 6 months they are back to seek help.

There is huge excitement at NdiMoyo as a much-needed replacement of the old 4 x 4 has been purchased. It is a Toyota Hilux 280 EX Doublecab Pickup registered in December 2004 which has only done 18,600 miles. It has never been used off road. Special thanks to Martin Foord of Seven Stars 4 x 4 Ltd in Macclesfield who helped in locating the vehicle. The overall cost including shipping is £11,700.

The 4WD is essential for the dust roads by which the home bound patients in the villages, up to 40Km away, can be reached regularly. This has been one of our key objectives so it is good to have found a solution at a price close to the budget we set. Hassan, our Treasurer has informed us that the purchase has been made possible through an incredible donation from Christine Olsen and Curtis Levy who donated AUS\$10,000 to NdiMoyo. Many, many thanks to Christine and Curtis – what amazing generosity. Gift Aid reclaimed from the IR will also go a long way towards meeting the cost.

Thanks to the continued efforts of Laurence O'Kane, Pharmacist, Draperstown, much needed morphine continues to be available. Laurence, concerned about the lack of pain relief for Lucy's patients, has initiated the donation of another delivery of much needed Bronopol BP. This is a stabiliser for liquid Morphine when it is made up from Morphine powder and water. Lucy writes **“NdiMoyo Palliative Care Centre, Salima very much appreciates everyone's efforts in bringing this Bronopol consignment to Malawi and would like also to acknowledge the considerable generosity of Irish friends who responded so rapidly to the crises here - the donations of this Bronopol and the morphine sulphate powder last November have meant many patients with cancers and/or other medical conditions causing terrible degrees of pain have been relieved. A wonderful gift of kindness and generosity by an individual who has never even been to Malawi. Palliative care is a human right - without morphine patients in terrible pain are denied that right.”**

The ever-increasing number of patients seeking support, care and medical attention means that NdiMoyo needs to extend its premises. Future development has been made possible initially through the incredibly generous donation of £2,000 from Sue & Ashley Cooper to buy plots 480, 481 and 482 adjoining the Centre. A new phase in Ndi Moyo's future - a development project and financial plan will be prepared in due course. Watch this space.

Piloting outreach centre is also being proposed to utilise Health Professionals and Community volunteers trained by Ndi Moyo under the FHI (Family Health International) project is also in its planning phase.

The 23rd March saw the initiation of yet another much needed provision – thanks to the help and support of Rita Hull and friends, Lucy has been able to start a Day Care Centre once a month for NM home care patients, to give respite to their guardians and families. Rita had a charity fund raising coffee evening in Ireland before she left and raised over £700 which bought the pots, pans, crockery, utensils and all the food for the first day.



We continue to receive enormous support from so many of you, as well as those mentioned above special thanks go to the following also:

- Jane, Grainne and Antony who organised a ‘Music for Malawi’ concert put on in St. Margaret’s, near Twickenham, and succeeded in raising more than £2,000 for NdiMoyo, a genuinely fantastic achievement. Thanks also to Real Ale Company who supported the above event.
- The Market Inn Golf Society, Draperstown ran a memorial event in memory of the late Cos McGuigan. Thanks to Maurice Regan, Liam Hutchinson, Michael Kelly, Lenny Kelly; and The McGuigan Family, Draperstown, who included NdiMoyo as one of the recipients of funds.
- Anna Richtmann’s parents whose donation of money was used to buy a Tea Urn.
- Ed McCaul who has spent three months volunteering his accountancy expertise at Ndi Moyo, ensuring that accounting systems are in place to provide good financial practice and accountability to donors. Pat McCaul accompanied Ed on this trip and generously and patiently shopped with Lucy to get all the things needed in one day in Lilongwe. The day was a huge success.
- Maddie, a very young lady who as May Queen last year raised £350, helped by Eleanna and other friends.
- Yoke Broadbent, Tania Peacock and Hassan Pillai (NM Treasurer) from The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Complementary Therapy Service, Manchester, are currently on a volunteering visit to NdiMoyo providing training to NdiMoyo staff. We wish them a safe, exciting, productive and life changing experience as they set out on this amazing adventure. They have been busy fundraising for their visit and have bought many items which were on Lucy’s shopping wish list.
- Special thanks to the many friends from The Christie NHS Foundation Trust who have supported Yoke, Tania, Hassan and NMPCC.
- A whole host of incredibly generous people from Manchester, Macclesfield, Prestbury and the whole of Cheshire who have donated and also supported Yoke, Tania and Hassan.
- Michael Toner, Draperstown, who assisted with his IT expertise in putting together the new 2010 NdiMoyo leaflet. Michael and his wife, Michelle, also gifted a pen drive containing retrieved NM photos and correspondence from various trustees.
- Chris and Barrie at All Colours Printers Ltd, Preston, who has generously printed some 2,500 copies of the 2010 NdiMoyo leaflet FREE OF CHARGE.

Continued thanks and appreciation to all of you who have made monthly Gift Aided contributions, ranging from £5 per month to £100 per month. Your commitment continues to provide a backbone to NMPCC’s income. It would be wonderful if those who generously support us by Direct Debits could increase their DD by just a little each month. A little goes a long way.

Lucy has asked especially to be joined with the Trustees in expressing how overwhelmed we are by your ongoing support. NdiMoyo Palliative Care Centre is a centre of excellence due to all your efforts.

To you all we send our deep appreciation. Your prayers for our patients and for our continued strength to meet their needs is very much part of the holistic and spiritual support that we need.

For more information, go to www.ndimoyo.org and, if you’re interested in hearing about different ways of helping, please email enquiries@ndimoyo.org