



The Laura Case Trust



The Laura Case Trust Newsletter – No. 3

Welcome to the third newsletter of **The Laura Case Trust**. You are receiving this because you've either donated to the Trust or raised money for us. Whichever it is – a huge thank you. Because of you, we've managed to do more amazing things in Laura's memory.

Projects

Since our last newsletter, we've committed another **£10,000** in grants, and have made some great connections with other charities and individuals who are providing us with lots more ideas for the future. We've carried on working with organisations that we've found inspirational, particularly READ International and PEAS (both of whom we found through a great organisation called The Funding Network – check them out if you've not come across them before). And we've come across others with whom we hope to work – both in East Africa and further afield, in Burma for example.

More books to Africa

One of our earliest grants was to a fantastic young charity called READ International, which uses student volunteers to collect second hand school books and then sends them to schools in Tanzania, where the secondary school syllabus is very similar to the UK but the resourcing picture isn't.

Thanks to READ and a very enthusiastic colleague from Kings College Hospital, we've been able to set up a similar project in relation to medical school textbooks. After training, these expensive books are seldom used, and sit mouldering on shelves or in bins. Not any more. The

READ/ Laura Case Trust/ MedSin Medical Book Drive is up and running! A booklist has been created with the input of the dean of the medical school and medical students in Dar es Salaam, and with the support of MedSin (a network of medical students), books are now being collected at medical schools all over the UK. The first shipment of books is making its way out to Tanzanian hospitals this year, with a further shipment next year. If you're interested in donating old textbooks or getting involved, please get in touch with READ at http://www.readinternational.org.uk/pages/medical_book_drives.

Help for Street Children in Kenya (£1,300)

Through a charity called Action for Children in Conflict, we have funded first aid training for vulnerable young people who have been living on the streets in Thika, Kenya. The programme also provides facilitation skills training for the same group so that they in turn can run first aid sessions for their peers. It will also support the purchase of two fully stocked occupational first aid kits for Action for Children in Conflict's street children centres. The charity currently works with a large number of street children, providing direct support to over 500 children in the area and indirect services to another 1000. The charity has seen tangible success since it started working in Thika in 2004, contributing to a 40% reduction in the numbers of street children.

Sponsoring Eriya and Daphne in Uganda (£1,250)



Eriya

A friend of Laura's, Dr Dagan Lonsdale, came across the Manna Rescue Home when he visited Fort Portal in Uganda last year (you may have seen pictures from that trip in our last newsletter), and was inspired by the services that it provides to 30 children with, and orphaned by, HIV. The children are educated at local schools, their medical needs provided for at the local hospital and by the nurses working on site. Food, recreation and pastoral needs are provided for

by the Home. The Trust is now sponsoring two of the orphans at the Home: Eriya, a 9 year old boy, who lost both his parents to HIV/AIDS in 2003 and Daphne Angel, a 9 year old girl, who was left with relatives who did not want her, following the deaths of both parents. We hope to be able to update you with news from Daphne and Eriya in later newsletters.



Daphne Angel

Scholarships for students in Uganda (£3,000)

In our last newsletter, we reported on funding we gave to an organisation called PEAS towards training students in Uganda to become beekeepers. PEAS (Promoting Equality in African Schools) was started in 2002 by a young British teacher to set up low fee/high quality

secondary schools in impoverished rural areas. To date, six have been opened, with two more due to open next year. The intention is that all PEAS schools become financially independent of PEAS in time and, indeed, their first - St Janan's in the suburbs of Kampala - has now achieved this.

We have been impressed by the enthusiasm and energy of PEAS and so are very pleased to be teaming up with them again to fund scholarships for the first four of their students to go to university. The funding will help put the students, who have graduated from their schools, through university, on the understanding that they will return to PEAS schools for 3 years to act as finance managers and science teachers. PEAS exemplifies the kind of sustainable models of education and aid that we want to support.



The Students

(photo by Paloma Pargac)

Update from Amon Bwambale (£2,700)

In our last newsletter, we reported on the bursary that we have given Amon Bwambale, from Bundibugyo, a very remote region of Uganda, to go to medical school. Bundibugyo used to have two doctors for a region of roughly 200,000 people, but after a severe Ebola outbreak killed one of the doctors last year, there is now only one doctor for a population the size of Southampton and an area rather larger. Once he has completed his training, Amon will return to Bundibugyo to work as a doctor there (increasing the numbers by 100%).

Amon has now started the second year of his three year course and is doing well. He is currently busy revising for a set of major exams in December and January. We will continue to keep you updated on his progress.

Update from Luke Godfrey £550

Our earliest grant was for a wheelchair for Luke Godfrey in the UK. Luke is 17 years old, has cerebral palsy and is a quadraplegic, with complex epilepsy. When we heard from him and his mother, Jane, he had grown out of his old wheelchair and was being wheeled round in an old armchair. The waiting list for a new wheelchair was far too long and the lack of proper equipment was having an adverse impact on Luke's health. Luke is now doing well - he recently won the Argus Achievement Award from his local paper – and he continues to benefit from the wheelchair, as Jane's most recent letter to us shows: *'Luke's wheelchair continues to be the miracle behind my son's continuing health and happiness'*. We have recently bought Luke an epilepsy and breathing monitor, to ensure that Jane is aware of any problems that Luke is having, without having to be in the same room as him.

Fundraising

This has been another great year for fundraising – for which we are extremely grateful.



March saw our first ever fundraising party, **A Little Bit of March Magic**, which put the amazing production and organisational skills of one of our trustees to great effect. A big crowd of Laura's friends and Trust supporters turned out at the Bethnal Green Working Mens Club for a wonderful afternoon of comedy and music from Edinburgh Festival award nominees Idiots of Ants, comedy group Ladygarden and stand up Brett Goldstein. Live music acts included Alex Ingram Hill and his amazing one man band, The Crimson Dixies,

and the superb Bridgette Amofah, whose closing performance blew us all away. All superbly MC'ed by Sarah Campbell. Huge thanks to all who took part, came along and laughed and clapped. Ian Olsson took some wonderful photos for us (one of which you can see here) – click on www.ianolsson.com for more.



Three of our trustees - Dom, Sam and Nix - and their friends, Andrew, Tanya, Nick and Dev set out to do the **Three Peaks Challenge** in June. The peaks in question: Ben Nevis, Scarfell and Snowdon. The challenge: to do it within 24 hours. The weather: unseasonable to say the least. In fact, the worst on the mountains in years, with

other less hardy souls being airlifted off Snowdon.

Amazingly, the whole group managed to complete the challenge in the allotted time, with no frostbite to speak of. There are pictures which attest to the 70 mile an hour winds and June snow (and BBC news stories to prove it). An incredible (and somewhat foolhardy) feat - but absolutely worth it for the over £10,000 they raised.



Our Chair had a rather less arduous task in June – that of **getting married**. Thanks to all who donated a very generous £2500 to the Trust in memory of Laura for Melissa and Will's wedding. We promise to make your money work harder for the Trust than it would have done on hand towels!



The **annual Laura Case Trust bike ride** from Cambridge to Brockdish (65 miles) was another huge success – raising over £3000 and only losing one member of the team along the way... congratulations to Ian who made it through the Suffolk badlands all on his own!

Staying with the cycling theme, Darren Tierney (always one of the super fast ones in the Cambridge to Brockdish bike ride) made the journey from **Paris to Geneva by bike** for the Trust, with only the little issue of the Swiss Alps in the way. He raised a brilliant £2200 and can still just about walk.

Many thanks too to Dianne Neeley, who ran the **Dublin marathon** for the Trust, raising £750; Ciaran Hill who has definitely performed one of the more unusual fundraising feats for us – 12 hours of **non stop rugby goal kicking**.... raising £350; Will Groot for raising £150 for his **half marathon**; Susie Wallis for her valiant attempts to **train for the Ironman** despite injury and raising £465 in the process; and the Foster family for their £150 from their **fundraising lunch**.

Thanks to all for their fantastic efforts on our behalf – and to all who sponsored them. Also thanks to all those who continue to give directly to the Trust on a regular basis. It is very much appreciated.

Many thanks from the Trustees

We've temporarily lost two of our trustees – Dr Nicola Richmond and Dr Sam Clayton – who have left, or are about to leave, for the sunny hospitals of Australia and New Zealand respectively. But they are in long distance contact and will be back in the Summer. We're always looking for people to become involved in the Trust, so if you've got an idea you want to share or would like to become a Trustee, do get in touch.

We hope to be able to update you again in the next year, but in the meantime do visit the website: www.thelauracasetrust.org, where you can find out more about the projects, updates and fundraising. Details about the Trust and accounts for 2007/8 are on the Charity Commission website www.charity-commission.gov.uk.

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