

Fundraising News

Cambridge Triathlon

Congratulations and many thanks to Conrad Stroud, who took part in the Cambridge triathlon on 11 August, running, cycling and swimming his way to raising £265 for the work of the Trust.

Farnborough School Technology College

Last October, Stuart Dykes, a teacher at Farnborough School Technology College in Nottingham, challenged the school to raise £1,500 for the Trust. Different year groups ran various fundraising events with the help of pupils doing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Awards.



The Duke of Edinburgh pupils designed Maya Childcare Trust T-shirts to wear on their sponsored expeditions, although the transfers fell apart after a wash! The pupils enjoyed the expeditions, despite rainy, snowy conditions on the practice walks and the coldest expedition on record for the Silver group in July. The Bronze group was luckier with the weather and enjoyed many games of Bulldog at the campsite.

Fundraising events at the school included a raffle at the Christmas concert, a penny jar in Mr Dykes room, a non-uniform day, a Valentine's Day extravaganza, a treasure hunt and even a sponsored weight loss by one of the pupil's mothers.



In total, the school exceeded its fundraising target by almost £1,000, raising an exceptional total of £2,432.83! Many congratulations to all the pupils and teachers at the school who contributed so enthusiastically and in particular to Stuart Dykes for coordinating the school's efforts.

We would like to know if you have plans to raise money to support the work in Guatemala. Please contact us at info@mayachildcare.org For more information visit our website www.mayachildcare.org

You have received this Bulletin because you are listed on our database as a supporter of the Trust. The Trustees believe that this quarterly communication is an important way of letting you know how your donations are being used. If you would prefer to be removed from our mailing list please either email us at: info@mayachildcare.org or write to our Secretary, **Mr Andrew Ker, 24 Ravensdale, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim BT36 6FA.**

Quarterly Bulletin of the Maya Childcare Trust

A charity based in the United Kingdom which is dedicated to supporting the work of the Centro Infantil Bellota (which is the Spanish for "Acorn Childcare Centre") - a childcare centre for disadvantaged children living in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

Welcome to the Maya Childcare Trust autumn newsletter! As usual, we have good news about the activities taking place at the Centre in Guatemala and the difference that together we are making to the lives of disadvantaged children. However, the bad news about the state of the global economy which is reported every day here is also a reality in Guatemala: a report in the Guatemala Times in June stated that "... the cost of food and other basic survival items like clothing, housing, furniture, health, transport, and recreation have increased 20.1% during the last year."



Economic pressures are affecting the Trust in two main ways: increased costs in Guatemala and unfavourable exchange rates. From as early as summer 2007, the management of the Centre has been reporting to the Trust how the dramatic rise in prices has affected the Centre's budgeting. For example, the Centre cook used to be able to buy a pound of onions at the local market for 2 Guatemalan Quetzales. They now cost 9 Quetzales. Similarly, tomatoes were 1.50 Quetzales per pound and have risen to 7 Quetzales.

The Guatemalan Quetzal is pegged to the US dollar and the Trust has to transfer funds to the Centre in US dollars. For most of the past three years, we have benefitted from the strength of sterling against the dollar. However, with the dollar now at a five year high against sterling, the funds we raise are worth less in local currency.

As we face these challenging economic conditions to ensure that the work of the Centre may continue, we are grateful to all those who give so generously to the Trust. Thank you for your continued support!



Zoë

Zoë Rose - Chair of The Trust



News from the Centre



There are currently 14 boys and 6 girls attending the Centre. All of them are living in poverty and many face difficult social and emotional challenges. They may have witnessed violence against their mothers or have been left alone for long periods while their mothers were working.

Support for Mothers

The Centre is very aware that providing support for mothers is an important aspect of caring for children. There is a formal meeting with all the mothers each month, to share experiences and provide a sense of solidarity and involvement. Mothers are offered some guidance and training about positive parenting. Mothers also meet individually with Centre staff to discuss any difficulties they are experiencing.



Marielos, the Centre's director, experiences the gratitude of mothers, she comments: "when we achieve emotional stability in the mothers, we see their well-being reflected in the learning and development of their children.



Mothers Day is a very special event at the Centre. This year, children prepared crafts as gifts for their mothers and also practised a poem and a "Little Pigs" song to perform as part of their celebrations.

Outings

In May, children visited a farm run by the charity KAPAZ, which offers agricultural support and training. This farm provides the eggs and chicken used in the Centre, and children were fascinated to see where some of their food comes from. They learned about many different animals and were very excited to be able to hold rabbits and ducklings in their hands.



Heavy downpours and flooding in June prevented a trip into the countryside, but children went instead to the local theatre where they enjoyed exploring the different areas of the building and played games in the grounds.

In July, they visited the zoo, which has a large playground and is always very popular.

In August they took a trip to the top of "El Baul" a local hill, which has pleasant woodland, beautiful views and giant slides!

Invitation

The Maya Childcare Trust and Belfast Central Mission invite you to **Une Soirée Musicale!** Featuring: Queen's Island Victoria Male Choir and Neuschel Brass Ensemble on Friday 14th November at 7.30pm in Grosvenor House, Glengall St, Belfast. Suggested donation: £5 (payable at door) Includes supper

We need more funds!

The Centre in Guatemala costs approximately £34,000 each year to run. Although the Centre has some local support in Guatemala and raises a small sum from contributions from mothers, nearly all of its funds come from the Trust. The Trust receives its money from you - its supporters! So far this year we have raised £18,600. In order to keep the fantastic work of the Centre running we need to raise more.

You can help, either by donating money or setting up a standing order, or by spreading the word. You may have friends or colleagues who would be keen to help. Your workplace, school or church may have charity events for which you could nominate the Trust, or you may have your own ideas about how to raise money. If you are planning a fundraising event, we would love to hear from you and may be able to help by providing information and resources..

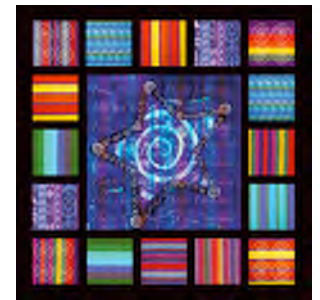
You can feel very proud of the difference your support has already made to some of the poorest and most vulnerable children and their families in Guatemala. Let's keep on making a difference!

You can help!

Christmas Cards & Gifts

Once again we are offering Maya Childcare Trust Christmas cards. These are available to order now in packs of 10 using the order form available online at: www.mayachildcare.org/card/.

You may wish to give someone a special gift this year by donating to The Trust on their behalf. We will send you a card and a named certificate to give in recognition of the donation, or if you would rather we will send it to the recipient directly. This is a gift that will improve the lives of children who really need the help. Please get in touch with us if you would like to know more.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Rachael and Adam Rhude who got married this summer, with celebrations in Wales and Cape Cod. Many thanks to them for choosing to receive donations to the Trust in lieu of gifts, and thank you to all who gave so generously.

