

News from Global Care and our partner projects

Spring 2023

NEWSBRIEF

LOOKING FORWARD FORTY



Our journey started with a handful of orphaned and abandoned children in Uganda in 1983. A tiny child sponsorship scheme. Friends and family recruited to help. A newbie organisation tackling age-old problems.

Forty years later, Global Care has changed the lives of many thousands of vulnerable children in 43 countries on four continents, thanks to supporters all over the UK.

We've stepped up in major emergencies and international disasters but also in personal crises and with long-term individual support.

We're proud of our achievements. We hope you are too!

But the journey isn't over.

Our 40th anniversary is a chance to take stock and celebrate but also to push forward, to raise awareness and to increase our impact worldwide.

Because although the world has changed enormously in the last four decades, the most vulnerable children need our help as much as ever.

In 40 years we've learned a lot. We're not the fledgling organisation we were back then, on the end of founder Ron Newby's kitchen table.

We're focused, nimble, experienced and effective. We clearly target our support at the most vulnerable children.

We know what we want to do, how we want to do it, and with whom we are called to work.

"We can't do everything, we mustn't do nothing, but WE CAN DO SOMETHING!"

Does that sound familiar?! It's still our raison d'être, 40 years on.

Thank you so much for all your support. Let's push forward together. Let's continue to change lives, restore hope and help marginalised children build a better future. It's why we exist.

Can't do
everything
Mustn't do
nothing
Can do
something

Filling in the gaps for girls.

We're dedicating our 40th anniversary year to girls. Already disadvantaged in many contexts because of their gender, the coronavirus pandemic has undone years of progress for girls.

All the evidence shows that increasing the prospects of girls helps the whole community flourish. So gender equity has long been a focus of international development efforts.

Yet the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women and girls means the inequality gap is widening again, rather than reducing. We can't ignore that.

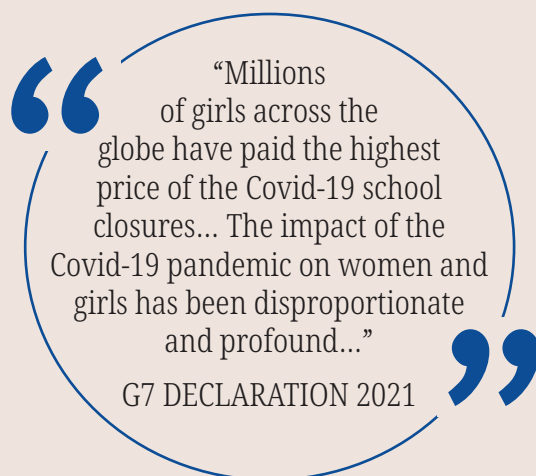
We want to mark our 40th anniversary year by raising £100,000 to fund initiatives which fill in the gaps for girls.

We'll be reinforcing existing work which supports girls – like mentoring for girls at high risk in Guatemala or skills training for teenage mums in Kampala, Uganda – and we'll be developing new initiatives.

Can you help us fill in the gaps for girls in 2023?

We're launching the Anniversary Appeal in place of our usual Lent Appeal and hope to start by raising at least £25,000 at Lent.

Please make your donations at www.globalcare.org/40-years, phone the office on 030 030 21 030 or use the enclosed response form.



“Millions of girls across the globe have paid the highest price of the Covid-19 school closures... The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women and girls has been disproportionate and profound...”

G7 DECLARATION 2021

WHY WAS **COVID** WORSE FOR **GIRLS**?

- Sharp increase in gender-based violence
- Gender gaps in access to – and use of – digital technologies
- Greater exposure to contagion & stress, as women are over-represented in health services and women and girls more likely to be caregivers
- Jobs held by women lost at a faster rate than jobs held by men
- Increased domestic work and care responsibilities
- Disruption to key health services, including reproductive, adolescent and maternal health

TORMENTED. BEATEN. SCARRED.

After the first Covid lockdown, as students gathered at Morning Star Care Centre again, our Sri Lankan partners arranged a medical check-up for everyone.

When it was 12-year-old *Sanna's turn to be seen, doctors noticed a pattern of scarring on her upper abdomen, which looked like she'd been repeatedly hit with a blunt object.

The team knew life at home was difficult. Abandoned by her mum as a toddler, and orphaned at nine, when her Dad died, she lived with her aunt, who was jealous of her, as her own daughter was disabled, and frequently treated Sanna unfairly.

But the team had no idea how bad it had become in lockdown. Sanna was being regularly beaten and victimised, including chopping off her beautiful hair

and salting her food.

Sanna was hospitalised for her own protection and eventually the whole awful story came out. The MSCC team worked with the police and child protection lawyers to ensure the matter was not dropped.

Sanna's aunt was arrested and charged, and Sanna sent to a state children's home. Despite

all the complications of further lockdowns,

the team continued to monitor the case and fight for Sanna, eventually getting her moved to a Christian home in a network of projects connected to our partners, Community Concern.

In 2022, the team wrote: "We are happy to report that she is doing well despite her traumatic experiences. She has become a great helper to others in her home, has endeared herself to staff and become an all-round student getting good grades."



Let's Celebrate!

Join us for our exciting programme of 40th anniversary events!

14 Feb	○	Launch of Anniversary Appeal
9 Mar	○	Anniversary Prayer Day
Apr-Sept	○	Great Big Tea Parties
20 May	○	Anniversary Spring Ball
8-9 Jul	○	Coventry Way Walk
11 Nov	○	Thanksgiving Service
8 Dec	○	Carol Concert

ANNIVERSARY PRAYER DAY

○ Thursday 9th March

If you're near Coventry, join us in person to pray with our patron, Fiona Castle, at the Breathing Space, in Allesley Village. Drop in any time between 11am and 4pm to join Fiona and others in prayer.

○ Breathing Space, Coventry
OR Wherever You Are

If you're further afield, we'll send prayer resources on request, so you can join with us in Spirit, as we seek our Heavenly Father's blessing on our work and give Him thanks for all He has done.

Sign up at globalcare.org/Anniversary-Prayer-Day

YOU SHALL COME TO THE BALL!

- Saturday 20th May
- Nailcote Hall Hotel, near Coventry

Enjoy a fantastic night of dining, dancing and entertainment at our Anniversary Spring Ball.

We promise you a wonderful evening in lovely rural surroundings, with drinks on arrival, a three-course dinner, live music and after-

dinner fundraising entertainment, hosted by comedian Paul Kerensa.

Tickets cost £48 or purchase a table of eight for just £40 per head. Get your tickets from www.globalcare.org/spring-ball or phone the office on 030 030 21 030.

WALKING WEEKEND CHALLENGE

- Weekend of 8th-9th July
- The Coventry Way

Walk the 40-mile Coventry Way as a sponsored challenge over two days in July and help us raise £10,000 for our 40th Anniversary Appeal.

We need a core group of walkers tackling the whole route, but you can also join in for shorter sections. If you're not up for 40 miles, make 10 or 20 miles your own personal challenge and keep our core group company for a while!

There's no minimum fundraising requirement, but we hope everyone will do their best to raise sponsorship so the event creates more impact than just sore feet... £10,000 will go a long way in helping us fill in the gaps for vulnerable girls worldwide.

Sign up and tell us what distance you'll tackle at www.globalcare.org/coventry-way-walk or phone Anita on 030 030 21 030



Global Care's big tea party



- From April to September 2023

- Wherever You Are

Could you host a Big Tea Party for family, friends, church or school, to celebrate our anniversary?

Just order your free Big Tea Party pack, full of fundraising ideas and resources to help your event go with a swing.

Our wonderful, fully recyclable pack includes bunting, placemats, posters, recipes and a collection box with personalised QR codes, so you know how much your event has raised in online donations.

You can also request a Global Care ambassador to join you, if you'd like – we love meeting new people! We can't guarantee attendance at all events, but we will do our very best to be there!

Sign up for a Big Tea Party pack at www.globalcare.org/big-tea-party or phone the office on 030 030 21 030 and we'll pop it in the post.



HOPE AND TRUST

A word from CEO John White

We reflect on the last 40 years with a sense of humility, as we recognise the many people who are part of our journey.

When Ron Newby set out to help children in Uganda in 1983, I am not sure anyone could have imagined what Global Care would look like 40 years later.

But so much has happened, so many children have had their lives changed for the better.



So many communities have seen their children start and complete their education - something which was not the norm before our involvement.

We see God's hand in the provision of funding, volunteers, staff, Trustees, partners here in the UK and development partners all over the world. Without this large team and God's guidance I don't believe

we could have achieved anything of significance.

So, why do I feel concerned about the future? As an organisation we have weathered many storms, including the banking crisis of 2008/09, the devaluation of sterling during the decision to withdraw from the EU and the Covid shutdowns.

So why does the current economic downturn weigh so heavily on me? Frankly, the massive impact Covid had on so many children's lives has broken our hearts. The Covid disruption and shutdowns

around the world have overturned so much of the gains that had been made in terms of children's access to education; 25 years of work undone in a matter of months.

There is so much to do, at a time when resources may be restricted.

I am reminded of Psalm 42:
"Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?"

Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God." Psalm 42:2

As we face the coming years, looking back helps remind us of God's goodness and provision. We have put our hope and trust in God throughout our journey and He has provided. We give Him all the glory for what He has done!

Ron Newby 1983



Yes, we may sometimes feel the weight of the challenge, but we surge into the years ahead assured of His provision and continued goodness, and excited by the opportunities we see.

To those of you who have journeyed long with us – thank you for your support over so many years. For those of you who are fairly new to the Global Care family, thank you for joining us and sharing our passion.

To all, a very big thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope you will catch the excitement that we feel as we look ahead, starting with this year, and our focus on girls.

John White

HANDS OF HOPE

**A HELPING HAND FOR CHILDREN SUFFERING THROUGH
THE BIGGEST HUMANITARIAN CRISES OF OUR TIME**

“We surge into the years ahead assured of His provision and continued goodness, and excited by the opportunities we see.”



1983:
UGANDA
POST CONFLICT



1984:
ETHIOPIAN
FAMINE

1987:
LEBANON
CONFLICT

1990:
ROMANIAN
REVOLUTION



1991:
KURDS IN IRAQ
POST CONFLICT



1994:
RWANDAN
GENOCIDE



1999:
KOSOVO CRISIS
POST CONFLICT

2001:
GUJARAT
EARTHQUAKE



2001:
AFGHAN
CRISIS

2004:
SRI LANKA
BOXING DAY TSUNAMI



2005:
PAKISTAN
EARTHQUAKE

2007:
BANGLADESH
CYCLONE SIDR

2011:
EAST AFRICAN
FAMINE



2010:
HAITI
EARTHQUAKE

2013:
SYRIAN REFUGEE
CRISIS



2015:
MYANMAR
FLOODS



2017:
EAST AFRICAN
FAMINE



2019:
SRI LANKA
EASTER BOMBINGS



2019:
CYCLONE IDAI,
ZIMBABWE



2020:
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
WORLDWIDE



Filling in the gaps for girls.

As well as raising £100,000 to support girls during our 40th year, we want to find 100 new child sponsors. We know sponsorship is a fantastic way of bringing girls to a place of stability and building hope for a better future in some very bleak situations.

Could you invest in a young girl and help her grow into a strong adult? It costs just 83p per day to sponsor a girl and change her life for good.

globalcare.org/child-sponsorship-is



FROM SHAME TO SUCCESS: **ARLENE'S STORY**

***Arlene fell pregnant aged just 14, after only one term at secondary school.**

Her mother chased her out of the house and her boyfriend abandoned her. Arlene had no-one to turn to – except Global Care's Uganda team.

Arlene had been sponsored since she was a young girl, and she hoped they could help her now.

Global Care did not fail her. Our



Kampala team identified an organisation working to support teen mums, and Arlene was able to stay in their residential shelter until her daughter was born.

In the meantime, Global Care offered counselling to both Arlene and her mum, so her mum would let her return home.

When her baby was 12 months old, Arlene was able to resume her education. Now aged 20, Arlene is in her final year of A levels and her daughter is thriving.

"I am forever grateful for the opportunity of education you gave me," says Arlene. "I never ever thought that after conceiving while at school, you would consider taking me back to school, for me I knew my school dreams had come to an end."

"Yet I am now in senior six and my mother is now able to pay for my education, and my little girl is also in baby class. I want to go to university, I want to be able to give my daughter the best in life. Thank you so much for all the help you gave me!"



"A strong independent woman"

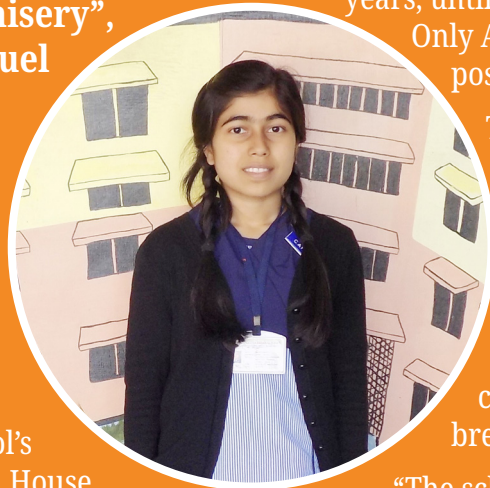
***Amy joined Calcutta Emmanuel School as a sponsored child in nursery, amid "a lot of difficulties and misery", say our partners, Emmanuel Ministries.**

When she was in Grade 3, her chaotic family disintegrated, leaving Amy with her grandparents.

But her grandmother just couldn't afford to keep her, and after a couple of difficult years Amy moved into the school's residential unit, Pauline Bhavan House.

Through all the trauma of change, separation,

loss and abandonment, school remained the stable factor in Amy's life. She lived there for five years, until she graduated from high school. Only Amy's sponsorship made this possible.



Today Amy is doing an MA in Psychology in Mumbai but stays in touch with the school which provided her only secure foundation. She's a fantastic role model for other girls struggling with poverty, caste discrimination and family breakdown.

"The school looks up to Amy as a real example of a strong and independent woman

working hard to change her future amidst all the hardship and odds of life," say our partners.

"Amy can stand firm having received tremendous and continuous support from the school and from Global Care, especially her sponsors. She often remembers and thanks them in prayer. She is now able to live a completely different life because of the education she received."



"No longer a needy person"

"I'm sending a message to tell my sponsor that I'm no longer a needy person. I was helped to help myself."

This was 19-year-old *Anthea's triumphant message on the conclusion of her sponsorship last year.

Anthea was sponsored in Rukungiri, Uganda, after both her parents died and her aunt took her in.

Her aunt had children of her own, and

finances were tight. Child sponsorship reduced the financial pressure on the family, and Anthea never had to worry about school supplies or her fees being paid.

On finishing school, Anthea trained in tailoring. She now earns a good salary, to support herself and help her family.

Anthea said: "I am as I am because of you Global Care, and my sponsor. You supported me when I was too needy. Thank you for loving me. I will never forget you. God bless you."





“A SPECIAL PLACE & A JOYFUL ONE...”

A team of UK volunteers helped celebrate the Covid-delayed 20th anniversary of Spurgeons Academy, in Kibera, Kenya, in late 2022. They ran a children's club with sports, crafts and other activities and took part in a large celebration involving alumni and dignitaries. Most were

part of the Global Care North East group, who have been fundraising for Spurgeons. Some had been involved with Spurgeons Academy for far longer, even prior to Global Care supporting the school in 2012. All were deeply impacted by the visit.

“ Thank you to everyone at Spurgeons Academy for welcoming us so warmly and a huge thank you to the team who came with us from the UK to serve the children and staff at the school. You were amazing! Every single member of the team worked so hard, whether running craft activities, coaching sports, teaching music or playing games with the children. They were patient, passionate and encouraging. They showed each child just how valued and important they are. I know the children will treasure the memories of this action-packed week for the rest of their lives! ”

Steve Wicking, Head of Operations

IN WORDS...

“Over the eight days of being with the children, they’ve got into my being. I can’t forget their joy, enthusiasm, laughter, smiles and offered friendship... or the abject poverty and despair of not knowing where their next meal is coming from.” (Lynne)

“It has been a journey of contrasts: The contrast on the journey to the school, with the lush, manicured grass on the greens of Nairobi golf course not 100 yards from the edge of Kibera slums, with the main road as separation. It seems to mirror the contrast of our own privileged lives in the UK with the poverty and sometimes hopelessness of the people of Kibera, separated by 4,000 miles.” (Claire)

“This trip has been rewarding and challenging in equal measure! We



visited a mother with four children in a space about 10ft² with a leaking roof, only a bulb for electricity and no water. She had no money or food, and no job. Taking a food parcel meant

she and the children would eat for a few days. It is upsetting to consider how well off we are compared to this destitution and how unfair it is to the families living here.” (John S)

“There was a girl, around 11 or 12, who seemed to have the weight of the world on her shoulders. She was carrying a little one - whom she had brought with her to school. It turned out that Mum had disappeared in the night, and the girl thought to bring her little sister with her to Spurgeons. What a responsibility at 12!

It quickly became clear that she had made a wise decision. Social worker Rose was on hand to take the young child and lie her down in her office

for a nap. Rose was then investigating. That’s the thing about Spurgeons. It is a safe place. A shelter. A respite from the sheer desperation and horror of living in the slum 24/7. When the children need help, they go to Spurgeons. They know they are safe there, they are loved. It’s a special place and a joyful one.” (Anita)

“It is interesting to contrast this visit with previous visits. On one level, things have not improved or changed, the difficulties are exactly the same. The number of children who are motherless or fatherless are still extremely high. The conditions are as bad, if not worse, than ever they were... But what is wonderful within that is the care and compassion of the staff and trustees of Spurgeons Academy, I think that is second to none. I am very impressed and I think the future bodes well. The partnership between Global Care and Spurgeons Academy is on a really solid footing and I saw evidence, on this visit, of both Global Care and (Spurgeons) trustees working together at a very deep level.” (Stuart)



IN NUMBERS...

12 volunteers & **3** staff

Aged between **16** & **80**

3 of them called John!

11 days in Kenya

20 years of Spurgeons Academy

175 children





**Global
Care**

Transforming
children's lives
for 40 years.

CHRISTMAS THANKSGIVING

We're so grateful to our wonderful family of donors for the support you gave us at Christmas, despite the difficult financial climate.

Our Christmas Appeal raised a wonderful £66,631 towards our project costs of £74,000 for the new two-year Covid catch-up education project in Bangladesh. That's plenty to get the new School Clubs started, and we are confident we can make up the shortfall over the life of the project.

Our lovely child sponsors sent brilliant Christmas letters to their children and donated a magnificent £10,832 to pay for Christmas gifts for all sponsored children.

And in addition to all this, you purchased 141 solar lamps for families in Zambia and Uganda, and 175 Bags of Protection for Dalit children at the G-Care Centres in Patripul, India, as 'alternative' Christmas gifts.

What a blessing you all are! Thank you so much.



*Names have been changed to protect the identity of children

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