

Tyume Valley Schools Newsletter

November 2018

Registered Charity 1103909



www.tvschools.org.uk



Paul Blomfield MP

Our new patron

Paul Blomfield, the current MP for Sheffield Central has very generously agreed to be our new patron. He became involved in the Anti-Apartheid Movement while at school. In 1976 he travelled to South Africa at the request of the ANC to meet campaigners. He went on to serve on the National Executive of the Anti-Apartheid Movement until free elections were held in 1994. Of his willingness to become involved in TVS he says: *“24 years after the end of apartheid South Africa still faces many challenges in tackling its legacy. I’m delighted to be backing a charity which is providing practical support to schools in rising to the challenge in education”*.

Welcome to our Winter 2018 newsletter. On this occasion we are celebrating all our fantastic donors, staff and volunteers, as well as preparing for our biggest fundraiser of the year – The Big Give Christmas Challenge. It seems a bit early to be talking about Christmas but the Challenge actually takes place between the 27th November and the 3rd December, so we need to get ready now. We hope you will support this very important event, and we wish you the very best for the Christmas season when we do get there.

Caroline Glendinning and Sue Richards, co-chairs

Our wonderful donors

Over 60 of you make regular monthly payments to TVS – some of you have been with us from our inception in 2004. Together with the associated gift aid this raises £10k per year, giving us secure funding for our year round IT teaching programme. In addition, since our last newsletter, we have received much appreciated grants from the Solon

Foundation in South Africa, and from the Rathbone Trust in the UK, plus donations and equipment from the estate of Dr Dorothy Baker and Battle and Langton Primary School, helping us to resource our English TechLearn programme, and one of our residential study camps. The Church of the Good Shepherd, Carshalton Beeches, continues to make regular contributions. We also received some very kind donations in memory of Archie Sibeko/Zola Zembe, our much loved President, who died earlier in the year. His contribution to education in Tyume Valley, his home area, will be long remembered.

We’re also very grateful for gifts in kind. A school in Skipton, North Yorkshire, Christ Church CE Primary School, has very kindly donated 12 laptops which they no longer need. A North Yorkshire member of staff has upgraded these and those of us who are visiting TV in the next few months are all preparing to take them out with us. This has been especially helpful at this time as we have sadly had some stolen in recent months.

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Our amazing staff and volunteers

Vicky Riley has been with us since 2013. By the end of this year she will have completed six years in TV, providing much needed structure and focus to our work on the ground, overseeing our English programme, now being combined with our IT teaching to create our TechLearn initiative, and co-ordinating study camps, as well as shepherding visiting trustees, volunteers and donors, or potential grant funders. She also liaises with local schools, education officials and other local voluntary organisations. Looking back over her time with us Vicky says her work has been extremely rewarding. The underfunding and resourcing of schools can be challenging, as can the intense summer heat and the badly deteriorated gravel roads!



Vicky Riley with the car donated by Rotary Club

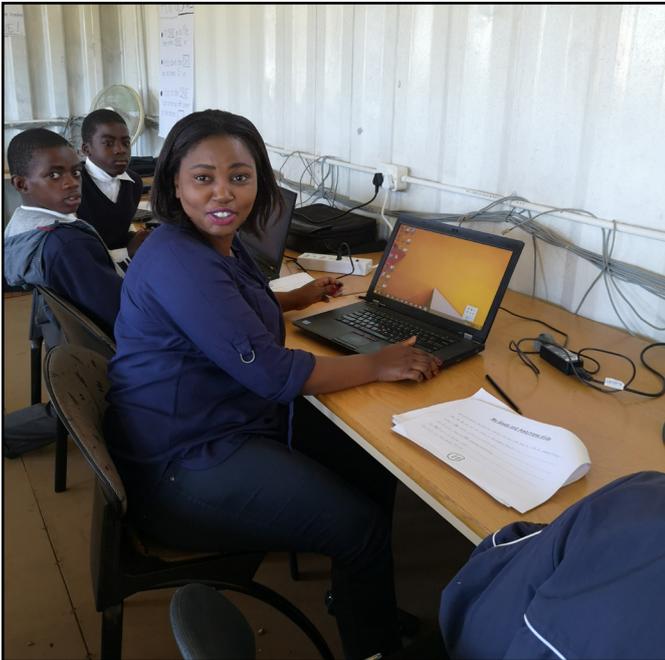
However, on the plus side Vicky says: *“as time has gone on it’s been really rewarding to see the improvements in the learners who we’ve worked with. I’ve got to know them well during the three years of the English programme; when I meet them now I notice how much more fluent their English is and how much more confident they are than their peers. I also get lots of feedback from school principals and teachers confirming how much better the children from the TVS programmes are. One of the guys who walks up from the valley to Hogsback every day to sell souvenirs – every time he sees me he says what a good job we did teaching his daughter English - she’s now teaching him!”* Vicky has now decided to return to the UK early next year. We will miss her very much, as will the learners and their families in TV.

Vuvu Tomi and Nontombi Siyanga have been with us for seven years and three years respectively. Vuvu is full-time and Nontombi part-time – both are very dedicated to their work with us and continually demonstrate their commitment, good humour and enjoyment of their work with us.

Vuvu recently wrote to trustees with the following comments: *“I so wish that the community and parents could see how you work hard to enhance the education of their kids. Thank you very much to you guys for showing interest in helping these kids to get a good education. Your hard work is not wasted, there are learners who used to get lessons from TVS who are now at the universities, some are graduates, whenever they see me, they always told me that the lessons they received from TVS have help them a lot at tertiaries because they were expected to type all their assignments (not write them) and that was easy for them because they knew how to use the laptops. So keep it up guys, and be blessed!”* We are currently helping Vuvu to train as a fully qualified teacher; she hopes to complete her online course in 2020.



Nontombi Siyanga preparing lessons



Vuvu Tomi taking an IT lesson

Nontombi is enjoying her work with us too. She is a very efficient organiser, as well as being reliable and conscientious. One of our trustees, currently in TV, has been observing her lessons, and was very impressed with her ability to adapt our TechLearn programme, and with the students' fluency.

Nontombi says: *"I'm not a teacher, but through TVS I've learned how to teach English, as well as IT. I'm enjoying working with the children – I love working with them. I didn't have a job before I joined TVS. Now I'm supporting my children and I'm also saving – I would like to do a paramedic course with that money. TVS has also helped me to get my driving licence"* She adds that it can be quite hard work getting the children to speak English, and sometimes involves some begging!

Over the years we have been very grateful to our UK volunteers, all qualified and experienced teachers, who have been willing to make time during their holidays, or post retirement, to run programmes in TV. At the moment, Geraldine Palmer, one of our trustees, along with five teaching colleagues, is taking a group of older students to TV, from Broomhill Bank Special School in Kent. They will be staying in a backpackers' hostel and working with two of the nearby primary schools. We wish them well and look forward to hearing from both students and teachers on their return.

School Leavers and the Big Give

In November/December we will be delivering our two week school leavers' programme for up to 30 students whose schools anticipate will receive good enough results in their end of year exams to go on to further study in colleges or universities, or onto secure jobs. The students are helped with IT skills, CV preparation and verbal and written English. We will also be anxiously awaiting the National School Certificate results which these students will have just sat during November. In the past two years results in 'our' schools have far outshone those in the equally disadvantaged surrounding area. We are very much hoping that this trend will continue into the 2018 results.

At the same time, from mid-day on the 27th November to the 3rd December, we will, in the UK, be taking part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge. This is a competitive event during which we have to raise money through the Big Give in order to receive matching amounts from a 'champion funder' plus two individual donors, called 'pledgers'. This year, as last, the Coles-Medlock Foundation has kindly agreed to be our Champion Funder. We are immensely grateful for this, but it does mean that we have a hugely challenging target to reach. We need to input £11,600 during the Big Give week in order to receive the matching funds. We would be extremely grateful for any small amount which you could contribute. A £10 donation attracts £10 in matching funds, plus £2.50 in gift aid, so a total of £22.50. A £100 donation attracts £100 in matching funds plus £25 in gift aid, so a total of £225. If you would like to donate please use the link below:

<https://secure.thebiggive.org.uk/project/24999>

Please be sure only to donate while the Challenge is open. You will be told whether or not your donation will be matched. If it would be helpful please phone Sue on 07884 185930 or email sueclarichards@gmail.com for more detailed instructions and reminders nearer the time.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

In line with the new data protection regulations, TVS has reviewed the information it holds on individual supporters.

- We ONLY hold information about our supporters so that we can send you news and other information about TVS.
- We will NEVER pass your details on to a third party.
- We do not hold unnecessary information about you that we do not need.
- Supporter information is held on password-protected computers.
- We aim to keep information about our supporters up-to-date and accurate.
- You can ask to be removed from our supporter database at any time and we will do so immediately.

We are very grateful for your continued support for TVS.