



# Trust in Children

Connecting Children to Chances  
[www.trustinchildren.org](http://www.trustinchildren.org)



July 2009 Newsletter

## A TRULY INSPIRATIONAL PERSON

We are sad to announce the death of Ellie Maxwell, founder of Firefly International. Ellie was a truly inspirational person who dedicated her life to supporting children worldwide. Firefly started in 1993 focusing on war torn Bosnia and in 1997 Ellie won Young Achiever of the Year. In 1998, trustee Leonora had the pleasure of working alongside Ellie and went to Bosnia the following year to volunteer on two of the regular summer camps bringing children from different ethnic backgrounds together. It was a real opportunity to see some of the fantastic work being done with the children, many of whom refused to speak to each other at the start of the camps and yet were hugging and swapping contact details by the end. TiC started supporting Firefly's Svitac project in 2007 which enables teenagers to build confidence and contribute to

community development through setting up their own projects and workshops such as juggling and language classes. TiC continues to support the project and the children's creative work will be on display at the 'When I Grow Up' exhibition.



"It just makes me wonder if she ever realised how many lives she touched all around the world. That is the main reason why we should celebrate her life and hope that somewhere above she can see everything she has accomplished and every one of us who think very highly of her and love her. Thank you Ellie for helping us to become the people we are today!" Bojana, one of the young people supported by Firefly Bosnia.

## PROJECT PIURA – TAKING ON A NEW FAMILY

Angelica is six years old and lives with her nineteen year old brother Frank, their mother and two elderly grandparents in a notoriously dangerous shanty town close to Piura. Their



father has been dead for many years and Frank has heart disease. Their mother, unable to get permanent work, takes odd jobs when they become available. Last year Frank started university studying Industrial Engineering and taught local school children in his spare time to get enough money to cover the basic costs. He achieved top grades. However, he is unable to continue studying due to increased university costs,

plus additional costs placed on the family by Angelica starting school this year. TiC's Project Piura will support both Angelica and Frank in their education. Frank will also become a mentor for Project Piura's school children, supporting them to plan their futures.

## WHEN I GROW UP: AN EXPLORATION OF THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF TRUST IN CHILDREN'S BENEFICIARIES

On 21st October 2009 Trust in Children will host a unique exhibition of art by supported children from Africa, South America and Eastern Europe at the Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood. 'When I Grow Up' is the mouthpiece of nearly 150 children who are growing up on the streets, in war zones and in severe poverty and many of the pieces are poignant reminders of how these circumstances shape children. They are also heart-warmingly charming and amusing. The exhibition will provide a very real sense of what donations are contributing towards.



Trust in Children is delighted to welcome guests after opening hours from 6:45pm – 9.15pm on the 21st October both to view 'When I Grow Up' and to enjoy a private view of the Museum's intriguing permanent exhibition space. If you would like to attend please register your interest by emailing us at [info@trustinchildren.org](mailto:info@trustinchildren.org).

## YOU ARE INVITED TO TiC's AGM

Over the past twelve months Trust in Children has continued to support projects in Peru, Bosnia, Malawi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as awarding a grant to a new project to enable children to attend literacy classes in the Philippines. We will be taking stock of progress against our goals at our Annual General Meeting in July and as a member you are warmly invited to the meeting.

It will take place from 19:15-21:00 on 14th July at 36 West Square, London SE11 4SP. If you would like to attend please let us know in advance by sending an email to [info@trustinchildren.org](mailto:info@trustinchildren.org).

Thanks for your continuing support to Trust in Children.



## PICK UP A PIECE

At TiC we are always keen to hear about projects our members think we should support. As a member you are able to Pick up a Piece of work or a project which you think TiC should support. Our trustees will see if it fits into the jigsaw of projects we are aiming at. By listening to members, TiC has been able to reach out to remote projects that we otherwise would not have heard about.



If you have a suggestion, please contact us with the details of the project you would like to support at [info@trustinchildren.org](mailto:info@trustinchildren.org)

## WELCOME TO THE NEW CHAIR



After five years as Chair, Leonora has passed on the role to Iain Forbes. Leonora continues to be actively involved as a trustee. "I feel privileged to have been able to help guide TiC to where it is now – successfully supporting hundreds of children in six countries worldwide with education and non-academic development. However, I feel that TiC needs new direction to help it grow in terms of membership and funds. Iain has a lot of experience developing organisational abilities and is already doing a fantastic job – it is a pleasure to pass the role of Chair onto Iain and work alongside him."

## REACHING OUT TO THE PHILIPPINES

The Department of Education in the Philippines estimates that 40% of Wawa's school age children do not attend school. A large proportion of these children lack basic reading, writing and counting skills. With TiC's help, the John Lyall charity is developing its Alternative Learning System (ALS) for children out of school and has just had the new intake of children. These children have completed their initial assessment exam to ascertain their learning levels, which enables staff to offer each of them a programme to fit their educational needs. John Lyall is also planning a scholarship scheme to support the children who pass the ALS programme to get back into the formal education system. The children's art will be on display in the 'When I Grow Up' art exhibition.



## PROJECT HOPE

Since December 2007, TiC has worked alongside Caring for Congolese Children, supporting forty-two children to attend the Mere Marie Augustine Centre primary school in one of the most deprived areas of the capital Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many of the children were severely



malnourished, stunted in growth and suffering from a variety of illnesses and skin infections, preventing them from starting school on time and resulting in urgent medical care at the feeding centre so that their health needs could be addressed. The result of the first year of the project was a resounding success: the children's health and physical appearance improved, they grew in confidence and are relishing the chance to learn. The children have now become part

of mainstream education at the Centre and have been placed into various classes according to their abilities. TiC continues to support the children and we wish them lots of luck in mainstream school. You will have an opportunity to learn more about some of the children and see their inspiring artwork as part of the 'When I Grow Up' exhibition.