

Welcome to our Spring newsletter!

There's lots to report on; it's been a busy and fruitful few months for both the Trust and the Project. You will be able to read some of the highlights over the next few pages. As always, the need and the workload are immense, and we do thank you for your prayer and support as we work to bring hope, healing and opportunity to some of the most vulnerable children and their families in south western Uganda.

Chilli Runners and Walkers

A heartfelt thank you to the incredible group from Hope Church Scotland who ran, swam, cycled or walked 4 miles every single day in September 2025 to raise funds for surgeries for children in 2026. Their dedication, energy, and compassion not only helped them to smash their fundraising target but also brought real hope to children in need of life changing medical interventions. Every step they took is making a difference right now – from cleft lip repairs to orthopedic surgeries – transforming lives and futures. We are deeply grateful for their support and would love to see even more people join this amazing challenge this coming September. Together, we can keep changing lives, one step at a time! Read on...



Above L-R: brothers Alan and Neil who have been involved in every challenge since 2011 – this year they ran, cycled and open water swam; husband and wife Jacky (who ran each day) and Sheena (who walked each day with their dog Angus); youngest ever participant Caedmon, 11, who ran each day after school and collected an amazing £349.72 from folks in his neighbourhood. Wow!. **Right:** husband and wife Gary and Isobel who exercise biked each day.



Lives changed forever!

These are just some of the more than 10 children already operated on in 2026 so far. Their medical bills have been paid thanks to what the Chilli Runners and Walkers raised in September, and also from the Liverpool Sensory Service Team in December from their end of term staff collection.

Livingstone
before
and after



Caleb
before
and after



Wisdom
before
and after



Asheri
before
and now
(still in
plaster!)



So, how can YOU get involved in Chilli Runners and Walkers 2026?

What? Walk, run, cycle or swim 4 miles a day, totaling 120 miles for the month. If this is too much for you, you could do 4 of anything else a day - for example walk up and down your garden 4 times, or walk around your local park 4 times.

When? This September 2026

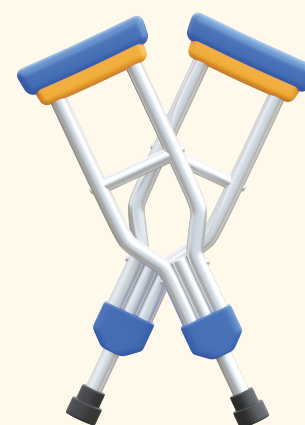
How? We can help you to set up a fundraising page. We can send you leaflets or posters to help you with fundraising. Why? Fundraise for the amazing work of the Chilli Children Project. Help many more children like Livingstone, Wisdom, Caleb and Asheri...

Please get in touch with us to let us know your plans, and we can see how to best support your efforts!



Purity

Purity and Pretty are twins. Since birth, Purity faced a challenge that her sister did not. While Pretty ran freely, Purity struggled with severe bow legs (genu varum) that made walking painful and difficult. Despite their differences, their connection never wavered. After a successful surgery in August 2025, Purity's legs are now straight, and the sisters walk side by side once more, indistinguishable in both stride and spirit! The cost of the surgery? £535, to change Purity's life forever.



L-R : Purity pre surgery with her twin sister Pretty; Purity pre surgery; Field staff Victory checking on Purity and her family at their home post surgery; Purity after surgery



Joan

Joan recently underwent life-changing surgery to repair her cleft lip, a condition she was born with that affected her ability to eat, speak clearly, and feel confident around others. Now, after surgery, Joan's transformation will open new doors for her — from better communication to stronger self-esteem — giving her the chance to fully participate in school, make friends more easily, and embrace a brighter, more hopeful future!



AFOs and KAFOs

What are these, you might be asking?!

AFOs (Ankle-Foot Orthosis) and KAFOs (Knee-Ankle-Foot Orthosis) are a type of brace that provide support and stability to the lower leg.

They give children, among many other benefits; better leg and foot position, more stability and balance when walking, support for weaker muscles, better posture, safer movement from the risk of tripping or falling, and more confidence in moving independently.

A few months ago, 17 children with cerebral palsy came to our office to be measured for AFOs or KAFOs by an orthopedic technologist. He put a plaster cast on each child, wait for it to set, then removed it. This enabled him to make braces to fit each individual child perfectly!



Above, on measuring day. Below, on receiving day!



Ultimately, these bespoke casts will help children to increase their mobility, stability and independence! These life changing appliances cost between £38 and £125 a pair.

Club Foot

Club foot treatment can involve:

- multiple casts
- boots and bars
- specialist orthopedic boots

Follow-up visits over several years. The families that we serve often cannot access or afford the repeated hospital visits required for club foot treatment and follow-up.

Our free clinics ensure that no child is denied treatment because of finances.

Baby Anan

Baby Anan is so lucky to have such supportive parents! We don't often see the level of care, teamwork and responsibility that his mum and dad were together willing to give in order to help Anan before, during and after his club foot treatment. Seen here working together to remove Anan's plaster cast under the hot African sun!



Baby Natalia

We were also so delighted to see Natalia's parents coming to the clinic together over the course of a number of weeks. Kenneth and Flavia, orthopedic officer and physiotherapist have, as always, done a great job with her correction!



Razzak

At three years old, you want your child to be able to run and jump and play.

Razzak, however, was born with hydrocephalus and still, at age 3, couldn't walk independently. He was given a physio assessment and subsequently supplied with a walking frame to aid his mobility.

Now, he's made a huge turnaround – walking fully independently. Well done, Razzak!



A wonderful sponsorship opportunity...!

This lovely face may be familiar to you! We have periodically shared about Rihanna on our social media platforms over the years. She was born with severe lower limb deformities, and we will always remember her mother sharing on her first visit to us, how neighbors told her that Rihanna would not be good for anything, and she should be left in the fields to wave her hands and chase away birds from the growing crops.

However, her loving mother had a different vision for her life, and Rihanna had both legs amputated above the knee when she was young, enabling her to get prosthetics and walk like her peers.

We are so happy to continue supporting Rihanna, periodically travelling to CORSU Hospital to have her prosthetics adjusted or replaced to fit properly, ensuring comfort and continued function as she grows.

We have a great opportunity for someone reading this newsletter right now, to make a real difference... We are currently paying school fees for Rihanna, enabling her to have a bright future like her peers.

Can you sponsor her by paying just £30 a month, covering all of her schooling expenses? You will receive annual letters, updates and photos from Rihanna, building up a precious relationship of encouragement and support.



Above L-R: Rihanna when she was young, before amputation; Rihanna now without her prosthetics; Rihanna now with her prosthetics; Rihanna at school!

A word from Chris, our new trustee!

My name is Chris Haigh and I have recently joined the team of trustees of 'The Chilli Children Trust' having previously been a regular monthly financial supporter, as many of you are now. Professionally, my vocational calling has always been working within the education sector as a Teacher of Deaf Children & Young People and I attend St Mary's Anglican Church on the Wirral peninsula, where I currently live with my husband.

I first witnessed the Chilli Children's impactful work with my family way back in 2014 as a Mission Direct volunteer. Two further subsequent visits to their projects provided me with the opportunity to teach some of the deaf children supported educationally by the Project, as well as becoming involved in laying down the foundation walls of their clinic, from which the daily physio & life skills sessions now operate.

Becoming a trustee may initially appear a rather daunting prospect, but you may just have an undiscovered talent for devising new fundraising ideas, improving our social media presence into the world of 'Tik Tok', enlisting new regular supporters or presenting a talk at your local school, place of worship or social group. Training & regular support & resources are available for all of this.

There are many ways to support the Chilli Children Project, whether as a trustee or a regular supporter—such as increasing your monthly donation to inflation-proof its impact, contributing skills like baking or crafting for fundraising events, or organizing GoFundMe challenges. Don't forget to gift-aid donations if you're a UK taxpayer. The trustees also thank Chris's colleagues at the Liverpool Sensory Service for their generous £500 donation to the Chilli Children Project.

For more information about becoming a trustee, or to set up an informal chat, please send an email to contactus@chillichildren.com. We would love to have one or two more trustees on board.

Right: Chris' leaving do with the team of Teachers of the Deaf and Teaching Assistants who kindly contributed to her retirement donation to Chilli Children.



'Top to Bottom: Chris Haigh; Chris at a Chilli Children home visit, during the construction of our now wonderful Rehab Centre and offices'



A final word...

First, thank you so much for your faithful support of the Chilli Children Trust. Your regular giving makes such a difference and allows us to plan and care for the children we support with confidence.

You may look at this newsletter and see all the wonderful things being done, and think that we are financially stable. The truth is, we are struggling to meet our financial commitments to the Project.

Over the past few years, like many organisations, we have seen the cost of food, utilities, transport and medical care increase. Has your regular monthly standing order kept pace with inflation? We are asking some of our regular supporters if they might consider increasing their monthly standing order by a small amount.

Even a small change — for example an extra £2 or £5 per month — would help us continue providing the same level of care and support to the children and families we serve.



For example:

- **An extra £2 per month** helps provide nutritious meals for children staying and studying at Kitazigurukwa Special Needs Unit.
- **An extra £5 per month** helps cover transport to and from hospital for a child having surgery for cleft lip.
- **An extra £10 per month** buys an essential care package for a vulnerable child undergoing therapy with us.

Of course, we completely understand that increasing your standing order may not be possible for everyone, and we remain deeply grateful for whatever support you are able to give.

Thank you again for standing with us and being part of this work.

How else can you get involved?

Become a regular supporter or fundraise for us!

We are proud to say that over 98% of what you give goes DIRECTLY out to Uganda. So, if you give £100 today, more than £98 of it reaches those in Uganda who need it most. Can you support us with £10 or £20, or even £50 a month? Or a one off annual gift? We would be so, so grateful.

Alternatively, you could do a sponsored event, or a cake or bake sale for us. We can send you promo material for your event!

Leave a legacy and make a lasting change

Would you consider leaving a lasting legacy to the work of the Chilli Children Project in your will?

It would enable the work of the charity to continue and grow, and you would be passing on something wonderful to future generations.

If you are making your will, or updating your will, we would be thrilled to be included in your plans. Any gift, large or small makes a huge difference to the children and families involved with the Chilli Children Project. If you would like to speak to someone about this, then please do get in touch with us **contactus@chillichildren.com**



Giving to Uganda

As you have seen from this newsletter, the Project and its committed staff are busy with so many different activities. But none of it can be done without your support. We are committed to sending more than £75,000 to the project in Uganda annually. Unfortunately, we have fallen short of our fundraising needs in recent months. This means that our Project staff may need to make hard choices about which activities they are able to continue to fund in the next year. If you can, please consider helping us with a financial donation.

What does my donation mean?

- **£8** can send a child to receive a neurological review in Mbarara
- **£10** can help a family to receive training and chilli seedlings to begin their income generating activity
- **£20** can feed a child at Kitazigurukwa Special Needs Unit for one month
- **£50** can pay boarding school fees for a blind student for a term
- **£500** can fix genu varum (bow legs) and genu valgum (knock knees)
- The Project employs over ten staff to carry out work at the hospitals, school, clinics and office!



How to give

By cheque

You can post a cheque to us, along with this page of the newsletter to include the Charity Gift Aid Declaration form (over leaf). Please make cheques payable to Chilli Children of Rukungiri Trust, and send to Chilli Children Trust, 37 Forest Road, Bingham, Nottinghamshire, NG13 8RL.

By regular standing order

You can give to us regularly by standing order. You can set this up directly with your bank.

If you would like to set up a regular standing order, our bank details are as follows:

Barclays Bank

Account Name: Chilli Children of Rukungiri (Uganda)

Account Number 00848883

Sort Code 20-84-17

If you are eligible for Gift Aid, this really helps too! Please post the Gift Aid Declaration Form (overleaf) to: Chilli Children Trust, 37 Forest Road, Bingham, Nottinghamshire, NG13 8RL. Alternatively, to save on postage, please copy the text overleaf, along with the required information, and email it to **clive@chillichildren.com**.

Through Stewardship

You can give to us regularly, or as a one off gift, through Stewardship, an online giving platform.

Go to <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20095422> and follow the instructions.



Charity Gift Aid Declaration

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below.

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Chilli Children Trust.

Or

I am not eligible for Gift Aid.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

Title

First name or initial(s)

Surname

Full Home address

Phone Number

Postcode _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Please notify the charity if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, and no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.