

The McCabe Educational Trust



Being an Orphan

November 2009

The Lazarus Home for Girls is just one of the projects that the McCabe Educational Trust supports on a regular basis with your help. We recently received a letter from Samar Sahhar, enclosing a very heart felt and touching composition written by one of the girls; a girl who has been a victim of the most terrible physical abuse and suffered trauma from a very young age. It was written entirely by her and with no input from staff. It is simply entitled "Orphan".



“Orphan”

I do not know why I feel that life resembles a bitter cup, that tastes bitter and sometimes I feel that it is a sweet cup with endless sweetness. Our life is like this, laughter, play and studying. The thing is, sometimes you find people that do not understand you and continuously laugh at you if you say something.



Being an orphan is not a word that injures me, but I do not know if it hurts others? God has designed our lives and he has designed for me to be in a protected home because of the circumstances that have taken place in my life. But others would not accept me because I am living in an orphanage. It is not the place that is the most important but it is what I am going to be in the future.

I am an unknown girl and I live in an orphanage, but the aim is one; to get an

education. I am not ashamed to be in an orphanage, to be protected, but I love to have friends that can be faithful to me. I do not understand why, if God has designed for me to be in an orphanage, that people will look upon me with sarcasm. I do not understand why people start to laugh when they hear that I am living in an orphanage. I can reply and say one word: that human beings, whatever life carries for them, they have to be satisfied.

Wherever we are, the most important thing is to do our best and be happy. So please accept the idea that I am an orphan and do not forget my advice to you. The most difficult thing on the mouths of human beings that injures you is when somebody looks at you and says “the orphan has come”. I need to ask you one question: would you then sleep with a calm conscience or not?

With your ongoing support we can continue helping these children to have an education and to give them a chance in life; to not “feel like an orphan”.

This feedback from a recent pilgrimage highlights the difference a place like the Lazarus Home for Girls can make:

Our pilgrimage had many highlights: we saw the beauty of the country and its rich heritage and the ugliness of the separation wall, but probably the most moving experience was our visit to the Girls' Home. Samar Sahhar is a truly remarkable woman and our group was full of admiration for all her efforts in giving the girls a loving and safe environment in which to grow and flourish.

Also in Bethany

Side by side with The Lazarus Home for Girls, is The Jeel Al Amal Home for Boys; a school for 300 boys and home to 100 of those that are orphans. The Trust is a major supporter and sends funding on a monthly basis to help cover the basic running costs. In October our pilgrims and supporters helped raise £3,248 for Jeel.

We visited Jeel Al Amal this year and we fell in love with the boys and were amazed at the wonderful work being done by the staff.

How We Can make a Difference Together

The McCabe Educational Trust continues to encourage pilgrim groups to visit the projects we support. It really does make such a difference if you can see the work being done first hand and meet those that are so deserving of our help.

Many of our pilgrims raise funds by having tea parties, coffee mornings, lunches, regular bring and buy sales or simply by asking friends and family not to buy them birthday gifts:

Recently I celebrated my 50th birthday with a ceilidh and asked family and friends not to buy gifts, but if they wanted to, they could make a donation. I placed a sealed box on the table on the night and when this was counted the total was £646. A terrific response by everyone.

An inspiration to all of us, especially with Christmas fast approaching. There are people who are much more needy than ourselves. We can find ways to help which don't always require huge effort and time, just thoughtfulness and concern for others less fortunate.





Make a difference

For more than twenty years, the McCabe Educational Trust has been creating partnerships with inspiring people we have met on pilgrimage. A huge thank you to all McCabe pilgrims who have helped us raise **£26,089** during October, a total of **£200,331** so far this year.

YOUR SUPPORT DOES CHANGE CHILDREN'S LIVES

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