

Save a Child receives £5,000 donation

In 2006, John Laing plc decided to donate £5,000 to a worthy cause in place of sending Christmas cards. Staff were invited to nominate a cause that they were a) personally involved with, b) they cared about passionately, and c) where a £5,000 donation would really make a big difference to them. The numerous entries were judged by staff from across the business and the winning entry was for Save a Child.

Save a Child is a non-profit organisation in Africa concerned with the care of children and families in crisis. Save a Child has been operating a children's foster home since April 2002, which provides care for orphaned, abandoned, abused and homeless children. The charity seeks to provide a secure, supportive family environment and facilitate tertiary education and/or employment as required. At the home, children are cared for medically, nutritionally and emotionally by a full-time house-mother, under the supervision of a programme co-ordinator.

Commenting on her decision to pick Save a Child from the entries, Holly Osborne, a purchasing executive at John Laing said: "I particularly like the fact that the benefits from our donation will be tangible. Despite only 12 children being supported out of 400,000 orphans in a country blighted by AIDS and HIV, this charity offers real hope and opportunity to those children."

Mid-way through 2007, Save a Child reported back on how the money was spent. It was used in two vital areas: first, the foster home in which the children live. Work is being carried out gradually repairing and improving the home. Three bedrooms were painted, carpets were cleaned, and entomology inspection took place and subsequent action taken to fumigate doors; some major plumbing repairs and upgrades were also carried out.

Secondly, support has been given the children's education, including paying school fees for five children, school transport for seven children, school uniforms, textbooks and supplies, educational games and resources for pre-schoolers and provision of tertiary education. Children were also treated to an educational excursion to Mpumalanga.

John Laing will continue to run this scheme annually.



Mxolisi and Mloni are being cared for at Save a Child this year



Tracy and Sli who have benefited from John Laing's donation



Kids playing during an outing



Easter egg hunt