

*The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made. - Psalm 145 v9*

Dear Friends,

The end of the year is fast approaching and as we look back, we can give thanks for all God has enabled us to do. This year we have seen the increase of our community groups which we know has had a positive impact on the families we are working with. The groups have given us many opportunities to help the most vulnerable as well as share the gospel. All the different community activities can be seen on our website, [www.thepottershousedco.com](http://www.thepottershousedco.com).

## Chai and Chat

In June we started a weekly meeting for people over 70yrs where they can come and enjoy a cup of chai (Kenyan tea) and chat with others. This was in response to meeting several elderly people who were living alone and in extremely poor conditions. They felt forgotten and unloved, and some would



not have any company from one week to the next. During the meetings they come and share stories of their lives and sing together, they enjoy it so much it's sometimes difficult to get them to go home!



## Cycle with Dignity

Cycle with Dignity is a new project we are running to reduce period poverty in Njoro. Period poverty affects 50% of girls in Kenya and it is common for young girls to feel they have no choice but to trade sex for menstrual products. Some girls use dirty rags or even share used pads, leaving them exposed to many diseases. It's estimated that one in ten girls miss school days because of the lack of menstrual products and later drop out.

Over the last few months, we have been researching materials and teaching ladies how to make reusable cloth sanitary pads. We are now ready to start making and providing cloth sanitary pads to girls in local schools, girls and women with disabilities and girls and women living in poverty. The project will also provide education about menstrual health and hygiene to girls and boys in schools. We have set ourselves an ambitious target of providing pads to 3000 girls over the next two years. We need all the prayer and support we can get, so if you can help in anyway or would like to donate to this project please go to the Community page on our website where you will find more information about the project and the link to donate or go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/cyclewithdignity>

£5 will provide one girl with a pack of 6 pads.

## Inclusive Schools

One of the challenges for us in Njoro has been children with disabilities left alone during the day while the parent goes to work. This can be for many reasons, the child is unable to walk and too big to carry, the employer is unwilling to have children in the workplace, the parent is unwilling to take them and has a negative attitude towards their child. The children are often school age but because of the lack of inclusive schools they can't attend a local school. The government is supposed to provide provision in schools for children with special needs if there are several in that area. To show the need, the children need to be assessed by the disability officer in Njoro. However, when assessing the children, most are then recommended for special schools, of which there are none in the areas. The recommendations seem to be based more on their lack of understanding of disabilities and that they know schools don't have the resources, than being about the child's ability.

We've been working hard with the local schools to get the children we know of admitted. We give thanks for one school that has recently accepted a young girl who has a severe learning disability. The girl had never been far from her own compound before and so we were expecting the transition into school to be extremely difficult for her. I think it was harder for the parent! We are so pleased that she has settled much better than any of us could have anticipated and loves going every day. The teachers, with encouragement, have been very supportive of her needs and have all said how well she is doing. We are sure that this positive experience will help them to be more inclusive to others in the future.



**MAKING NEW FRIENDS ON HER FIRST DAY**

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- *Please pray for the Covenant Baptist Church as they continue to minister to those in Njoro.*
- *Pray for children who have recently lost their parents.*
- *Pray for funding for the Cycle with Dignity project and that it would make a difference to those receiving the pads and school attendance.*
- *Please pray that all our financial needs would be met so we can continue to support the poorest and most vulnerable families in Njoro.*

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