Presentation: Elizabeth’s Legacy of Hope

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Hi everyone

My name is/our names are…

We are here to talk about a charity called Elizabeth’s Legacy of Hope

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Elizabeth’s Legacy of Hope supports child amputees in developing countries.

That means children and young people, such as Halima, Ruth and Victoria in the photos here, who have lost arms or legs either due to accidents, due to infections and bad access to medical care, or because of violent wars.

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Today, Elizabeth’s Legacy of Hope supports more than 250 children in three countries:

Sierra Leone and Liberia, the two small countries in West Africa (point on the map).

And India, in South Asia (point on map).

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Elizabeth’s Legacy of Hope was set up by twin sisters Sarah and Victoria after a terrible bus crash where their mother Elizabeth lost her life and Sarah’s daughter Pollyanna was so badly injured she had to have her right leg amputated below the knee.

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After the accident Pollyanna received great medical care and support and thanks to this she can now walk, play and go to school, just like any child.

Sarah and Victoria were so grateful for all the support Pollyanna received but they became aware that there were many, many child amputees in developing countries who did not get any support at all. They wanted to do something about it and set up Elizabeth’s Legacy of Hope – to make sure more child amputees can live happy and active lives.

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The situation of amputees is not often talked about, but there are actually 40 million people with amputations in less developed countries.

Only five in hundred get prosthetic care which would enable them to walk

And most children do not go to school

The lives of child amputees can be very difficult. They are often alone, are unable to walk or play with their friends, and will not get an education so they can get a job and move out of poverty.

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This is where Elizabeth’s Legacy of Hope steps in. They support child amputees so they can: walk, overcome trauma, go to school, and overcome poverty.

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So how does it work in reality? This is the example of Mary:

Just like Pollyanna Mary lost her limb, but her story is very different. When she was just a bit older than Pollyanna is now, rebels attacked her village during Sierra Leone’s bloody civil war. During that attack Mary was badly hurt by rebel soldiers and had her arm amputated with a machete just above the elbow. Afterwards she was left in the bush to die.

But Mary didn’t die. She survived and managed to find her parents again. But she never received the medical care she needed and she never returned to school. Both because her parents couldn’t afford it and because she was afraid of what others might think about her arm.

However, today, and for the last two years, Mary has been part of Elizabeth’s Legacy of Hope’s project in Sierra Leone –the largest project with 147 children.

Thanks to this project, Mary has received medical care and has been working with social workers to overcome the trauma she has lived with for ten years. And she has returned to school and is in her final year before university where she wants to study business to get in a job in a bank. To “take away poverty from my family” – in her own words.

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Elizabeth’s Legacy of Hope’s projects are only possible thanks to their amazing supporters in the UK. They have developed projects that:

a) Give child amputees back their mobility and

b) Lift them and their families out of poverty for good

Just as in Mary’s case, they provide medical support, counselling and education. And a business programme for parents which helps them set up small businesses so they can become independent in the long run.

This is not only enabling them to walk and go to school, but to gain self-worth and live happy and active lives.

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So how can we help?

Here at …. we can raise awareness and fundraise money for the children in Elizabeth’s Legacy Hope’s projects to make sure they can help more children.

For as little as £30 we can cover the school fee for a child amputee for a whole year, and for £80 a child can get a prosthetic leg and walk again.

Today/tomorrow/this week we will have a cake sale/sponsored run/school concert… 🡪 This is the part where you talk about your fundraising event (you can also change the Power Point slide if you’d like)

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Thank you so much for helping child amputees so they can live active and bright lives!