

ELIZABETH'S LEGACY OF
HOPE

Spring
2021

Newsletter



Donations

For those of you who have been donating regularly, or who have made a one-off donation – thank you! All the Trustees of Elizabeth's Legacy of Hope are enormously grateful. However, an even bigger Thank You is from our child amputees in India, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Child amputees in these countries are some of the loneliest and most vulnerable children in the world. They urgently need and deserve mobility to enable them to be with, and have the same opportunities, as other children. With your help, we can give these children what they need.

If you have not yet donated and would like to, either a one-off donation or set up a direct debit, we would be most grateful. The best way (which also enables us to easily manage Gift Aid) is through our on-line donation platform Enthuse: [Donate - Elizabeth's Legacy of Hope](#)

Thank You.



Project News

We are delighted to report that our support for the children is progressing well in the three countries we are currently working in: Sierra Leone, Liberia and India. Our reporting requirements are being met by each of our project leaders which is important as it is our way of confirming to you that the funds you generously give us are being spent as you wish them to be.

Highlights below, and at the end of the newsletter:

India

It is now almost six years ago since we funded a limb clinic at Paradise Village for orphans in Andhra Pradesh, with our partner organization HEAL – Health and Education for All. With your help, and Heal, we are caring for over fifty child amputees, repairing their legs, making new ones; doing all we can to keep the children mobile and well. Please read on to see a special report written for us about the care HEAL has given our children throughout the pandemic.

We are continuing to monitor the situation as the Covid rates are on the increase again; as ever we will do what we can to work with Heal to ensure our amputees have what they need to keep safe; we have just given HEAL a special, one off donation, to fund sanitation kits, for all of our amputees.

Africa

We are caring for thirty child amputees in two of West Africa's poorest countries, Sierra Leone and Liberia, in partnership with World Hope International. We give these children not only mobility, but education too. We continue to be hugely encouraged by how our beneficiaries cope with the challenges of their daily lives. Later in this newsletter is an interview with our project leader, Jacob, in Liberia and Ezekiel, one of our beneficiaries, about how they coped last year as the Liberian lockdown took hold.

Below, too, is a link to a film made by co-founder Sarah Hope with our partnership in Sierra Leone, Enable the Children, in 2019: [Founder Sarah Hope's film with Enable the Children in Sierra Leone - Elizabeth's Legacy of Hope \(elizabethslegacyofhope.org\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd8j8j8j8j8)



The photograph you see here is of one of our upper-limb amputees in Sierra Leone; Joan Jackson. We are delighted to report that Joan has been selected to train for the Special Olympics. Well done Joan!

**Elizabeth's Legacy of Hope News,
and how you can support us**

Date for your diary:

(Covid-permitting of course, please refer to our website for updates and ticket-booking details)



* 11th May 2021 is our 10th Birthday. Thank You for helping us reach this amazing milestone *

Thursday, 2nd December 2021: Please come to our **Advent Carol Concert!** This will be at St Clement Danes Church in the Strand, central London. This is the parish Church of the Royal Air Force and we are pleased to announce we are holding this event with the **Bader Foundation**, which promotes the mental and physical welfare of people living with limb-loss in this country, in memory of Sir Douglas Bader, a celebrated fighter 'ace' of the Second World War, despite being a double amputee.

Ian Whybrow's Poetry Marathon:

Ian Whybrow, ELoH Patron, poet and author of many children's books, is coming to the end of a year-long poetry marathon. Since July 15th last year Ian has written a poem every day. When his anthology is published he would like

it to raise funds for us, especially for our tenth anniversary. This fantastic project is called '**Poetry with Legs**' – details of how to sponsor Ian can be found here: [ELIZABETH'S LEGACY OF HOPE: Poetry with Legs \(enthuse.com\)](https://www.elizabethslegacyofhope.org/Poetry-with-Legs)

Please read on for more information at the end of the newsletter.

That's not all – later this year (again as a fundraiser) we will be publishing a collection of poetry, prose and letters telling the story of our work over the past ten years – words given to us by not only professional poets, by also by our beneficiaries. Below is a quote from a poem by one of our children in Liberia. It leaves us in no doubt at all about the vitality of our work:

"I grew up playing alone, and it helps me to be independent.
While my joy was being washed away, Elizabeth's Legacy of Hope came knocking
With fresh and new hope to hold unto, That I may walk again they built me a prosthesis
And with education they enlighten my hopes."

(Again, please refer to our website for further details)

(Real! Half) Marathon Running

The London Half Parks Marathon is taking place on 10th October this year – we are delighted to say we already have a team of ten runners already – all pledging to raise as much money as they can for us. There are a few places still available – please email: manager@elizabethslegacyofhope.org if you are interested.

Elizabeth's Legacy of Hope – Thank You's

All the Trustees of Elizabeth's Legacy of Hope are forever grateful to all of you who support us; without your donations we simply could not continue to care for the children who need us, so much, in the way that we do. **On behalf of all of the children, Thank You.**

And a few quick and special mentions:

Pollyanna Hope

- For those of you who might be reading about our work for the first time, Pollyanna Hope inspired the creation of ELoH in 2011 after she lost her right leg below the knee in a road accident, which also claimed the life of her grandmother, Elizabeth. Pollyanna was two years old at the time – she is now 16 years old – to mark her birthday and ELoH's Tenth anniversary we are setting up a Young Ambassador Scheme, which Pollyanna has agreed to lead. Thank you Pollyanna!
- **Penta Medical Recycling** in America, for the material and prosthetic parts they have given us for our work in Liberia;
- Six year old **Armaan Sharan** who recently completed a 10k run, exceeding his own personal target of raising over £500;

The amazing caregivers in all of our countries -

- **Anna, Rob, Pastor Finney** in Sierra Leone
- **Jacob, Doris, Augustus, Wellington, Matthew and Princess** in Liberia
- **Ajay** and his team in India

And

- **Nancy Green** at World Hope International in America, and **Dr Koneru Prasad of Heal**, for invaluable advice, support and all-important number-crunching

Thank You All

Please do get in touch with any questions you may have, or if you would like to discuss a fundraising idea, by emailing:

manager@elizabethslegacyofhope.org

ELIZABETH'S LEGACY OF

HOPE

ELIZABETH'S LEGACY OF

HOPE

A year-long marathon for ELoH

To celebrate our tenth anniversary, one of our patrons, the author [Ian Whybrow](#), has embarked on a unique year-long marathon to raise much-needed funds for our charity.

Ian is prize-winning, best-selling writer of over a hundred children's books that have sold in millions over the last thirty years, the best known of which are (probably) the Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs series. A more comprehensive list can be found on Ian's website: www.ianwhybrow.co.uk

Poetry with Legs

He's at pains to point out that he's not quite as old as Captain Tom, but a time in his life when most writers have run out of creative energy and ambition, Ian has set himself the challenge of writing at least one poem every day. All the profits for the collection (which goes by the title *Poetry with Legs*) will go to [ELoH](#).

Please give this remarkable feat of stamina and athletic imagination your support. It's an insightful chronicle of our peculiar times: quirky, witty, inventive and often touching.

Give a kid a leg-up!

Our target is £1000 which is about ten pairs of prosthetic legs in India or Africa and never more desperately needed. Give what you can. Ian's marathon began on July 15th, 2020 and he will cross the finishing line on July 15th, 2021.

When the collection is published, sponsors will be credited as patrons of the arts as well as the strength and stays of [ELoH](#) - and thoroughly good eggs. (£30-£50 buys a prosthetic leg in India or Africa)

A taster

Ian has asked us to point out that he's well-aware that lots of people don't read poetry - but hopes you'll support the endeavour anyway. Please look on our website for a 'taster' of his work in progress.

HOPE

A poem for child-amputees

"Poetry with Legs" is not exclusively about our charity but when he was asked to write a poem especially about child-amputees, he tried to imagine how it might feel to be a young person living in poverty who loses a leg. "I'd crumple," he admits. "I'd blame myself. I'd feel it was my fault. I'd want to hide myself away from the teasing or pity of other kids; I'd feel humiliated - a useless, hopeless burden."

Here's what Ian wrote:

The Frog Princess

After the explosion I liked it in the dark.
I liked the drip and plop
and the river smell,
you get from being down a well.

I didn't call out.
Alone, I was content.
I felt I deserved
my punishment.

The dark was my shield
I would lie under it and stare
feeling my safety
in despair.

I heard you sing
of an end to pain,
how I might be beautiful
and useful again.

You dropped a rope
and told me not to worry.
If I would let you, you would pull me up
but there was no hurry.

I did not believe a word you said
but that was a start.
I began to feel around in the mud
for the pieces of my broken heart.

ARTIFICIAL LIMB CENTER.

ELoH INITIATIVES DURING THE PANDEMIC (April-December'2020)

INTRODUCTION:

Covid-19 lockdown period was the toughest to the world more so for the poorest of the poor in March to June 15th who could not go out for work means no pay. They had to struggle a lot. The families of our amputee children are no country was in lockdown. Subsequently, during Unlock period very limited mobility was amputees who were benefitted by ELoH unable to come to the artificial limb center for repairs and reviews. Public transport almost stopped including trains. Based on the situation and the need of the children HEAL-ELOH staff visited the villages by ambulance and helped the children to walk. Staff of ELOH and HEAL visited the villages taking all precautionary measures of wearing face masks, gloves, sanitizers and maintaining social distance.



almost everyone in India from 25th of March to June 15th of 2020. For them no work means no pay. They had to struggle a lot during this period. Entire country was in lockdown. Public transport almost stopped including trains. Based on the situation and the need of the children HEAL-ELOH staff visited the villages by ambulance and helped the children to walk. Staff of ELOH and HEAL visited the villages taking all precautionary measures of wearing face masks, gloves, sanitizers and maintaining social distance.



Enquiry over phone: contacted 103 child beneficiaries and their family members during the lockdown period and enquired about the situation in their village, financial and health condition of their families. We prepared an excel sheet for all the child beneficiaries and documented their educational, financial and health conditions even in their villages.

Dissemination of Information: shared the update information on government support and covid-19 relief initiatives with the beneficiary's families. Our state and central governments supported all the marginal families in the country during the lockdown period by providing 2 times ration of essential commodities per month. We made them aware about the Government support and encouraged them to avail the benefits.



Awareness created on sanitary measures: Created awareness among the child beneficiaries and their family members about the importance of personal hygiene and to maintain good sanitary conditions in their homes as well as their surroundings. Wearing of face masks, using sanitizers, frequent hand wash, maintaining social distance and nutritious food intake. Enquired about the annual exams and results of child beneficiaries and encouraged them to continue higher education.

ELIZABETH'S LEGACY OF

HOPE

Covid-19 relief initiatives by ELOH: As per the enquiry conducted over the phone with the child beneficiaries' families, 19 most deserving families have been selected out of 108 and ELOH supported them giving relief materials (Essential commodities- Rice, Pulses, Groceries, Edible oil, Vegetables, and eggs etc.,) worth Rs.4,600/- twice during the lockdown period with a gap of one month. The first distribution of essential commodities was made on 06-06-2020 and the second was made on 01-07-2020.



Preparation of Artificial Limbs During the unlock down: Prepared 3 Limbs for replacement, during the partial unlock down time in the month of June/July. The measurements have been taken for 3 children before lockdown and prepared for replacement during the 2nd quarter.

Mobile Service: Visited 6 villages in the month of July and taken measurements for 2 replacements and done 4 repairs (Foot change, Tightened the screws and bolts, Hight adjustment etc.,)

ELIZABETH'S LEGACY OF

HOPE



“So many people were hungry, dreadfully hungry”, Doe Kantley Jacob said, referring to what he felt was the worst aspect of the seven month Covid-19 lockdown in his home country of Liberia, between March and September last year.

“It was awful,” he said, “our country struggles anyway because our economy is in such a mess and the government promise but don’t deliver, and during the lockdown it was worse because even food was in short supply. Some people were so hungry they were driven to suicide.”

Founder and Trustee, Victoria Bacon visited this delightful country in West Africa a couple of times, six years ago and again in 2019. With a stunning Atlantic coastline, plenty of trees and an abundance of natural mineral resources it has huge potential to provide its relatively small population of five million with a wonderful standard of living. However, in common with many other sub-Saharan countries, Liberia is not a country that properly looks after its people – for many years it has been one of the poorest countries in the world, and still is; things we take for granted such as a roof over our head that doesn’t leak, healthcare when we need it, education for our children and a full stomach are simply not a given for Africans living in these countries.

When Victoria travelled to Liberia, she spent most of her time in the capital, Monrovia; a sprawling city teeming with the locals walking with bowls on their heads piled high with mostly fruit, vegetables or bread – but sometimes towels, toiletries and even clothes. Hundreds

of other people sat by the side of the road, selling such wares – proudly running a business not only to provide for others but also, of course, for themselves. As darkness fell, the bustle would dissipate slightly, but it never felt very quiet. People kept going, kept providing, for as long as they could, as long as they were needed, before returning to their shelter-like homes for some much needed rest.

Such a way of life provides little in the way of security, certainty, or income at the best of times. But at least it is something; when the ‘lockdown’ restrictions were imposed last year, in a similar way as to how they have been here, these liberties were taken away, and the government, Jacob told us, quite simply, did not properly provide, in response.

“It was so hard,” he said “Many families’ sources of income were closed down, particularly those who sold food from their stalls by the road – which was needed by families on a day to day basis. The government stepped a bit, but for weeks we lived on a ‘hand to mouth’ basis. Health care was only offered to those with emergency health needs, so many people were ill. People were frightened, worrying about sanitising but unable to afford, or even track down enough soap; that was another nightmare.”

HOPE

Doe Kantley Jacob is ELoH's project leader in Liberia caring for fifteen children – missing legs, or arms. With our money, in usual times, Jacob is able to give these children what they need – including prosthetics, and education for all of them. He has worked with children who have disabilities for the past five years, initially looking after partially sighted and deaf children, and turned to serving the needs of amputees, for ELoH a year ago.

Prosthetics in Liberia are not provided by the state, for children or adults; they can be bought but for most people the cost is simply too much – amputees have to manage with crutches if they are lucky, some don't even have those. Ezekiel, pictured here with Jacob, is now 16 years old. He broke his leg in four places, after he fell whilst trying to do summersaults from the metal bars his family used to dry their clothes, when he was just two years old, and had to have an above the knee amputation after badly administered operations left him with a near-fatal infection.

Ezekiel only received a prosthetic two years ago, after he came across ELoH. He grew up only with crutches which, he told me, resulted in a lonely childhood because – quite simply – whilst he did manage to get to school, his journeys were exhausting, but worst still other children did not want to be with him. However, from the moment he received his prosthetic he told me he was seen 'completely differently', began to make friends very quickly. Ezekiel is a bright boy, now with hope and determination; "I am hoping to be a brain surgeon," he told me.

Jacob explained the 'stigma' amputees have to live with is very real, in part because of the country's two recent civil war which lasted for over 11 years. "During this time", Jacob said, "many people – men and women – were amputated, and a lot of those whose limbs were taken died because they didn't receive the medical help they urgently needed. There are people in our society today who still think that children who are born without limbs, or lose limbs, are the 'rebirth' of amputees who died during the war, associating them with bad luck and failure – so they are ignored and left alone. I experience it sometimes if I try and get in a taxi with one of the children I am looking after ... I have to bully the drivers into taking them.

Our society has a negative perception about child amputees; but once they receive a prosthetic, that negativity goes. To every child amputee, a prosthetic limb is an escape from stigma and rejection."

Jacob understands what it is like to grow up with a disability in Liberia; he was bullied for having a speech impediment – teased to such an extent he, as well as looking after child amputees, now does what he can to try and change the way people behave towards each other.

Our visit to Liberia were specifically to meet the children ELoH cares for, but inevitably we saw too just how many people's needs are sadly not being met; so many people whose disabilities leave

them wanting. Covid-19 itself, predominantly because it is an illness which hurts older people and Liberians have a much lower life expectancy than us, is probably not what frightened them the most. However, knowing how these people live – survive – it is certain the consequences of the lockdown would have hurt them far more; all of them, but especially those live with a disability, whatever that might be.

The lockdown restrictions of Covid-19 in Liberia have now been lifted. Jacob reported however that during the 'dark' seven months of lockdown, whilst schools were closed too, he said:

"Through ELoH I made sure all the children had books, pens and paper so they could keep learning, and students whose parents can't read were tutored through phone calls. ELoH also gave the amputees and their families soap and masks; and vital food to stave off hunger.

I'd like just to recall one especially memorable visit to a family the father of whom, when I arrived with a two week supply of rice (provided by ELoH) for the whole family, got out of his seat and ran around dancing and singing with joy!"

(Report written by Trustee, Victoria Bacon)

ELIZABETH'S LEGACY OF

HOPE

ELIZABETH'S LEGACY OF

HOPE