



**Spring
Newsletter
2019**

**Exclusive
interview with
artist Raymond
Martinez**

**"This one's for
the dads" a very
personal
marathon**

**How Cecily's
Fund alumnus
Esther plans to
help others**

...and more!

OXFORDSHIRE

art

WEEKS

**Raymond Martinez Solo Exhibition - May 25 and 26
Warwick Hall, Burford (OX18 4RY)**

Welcome!

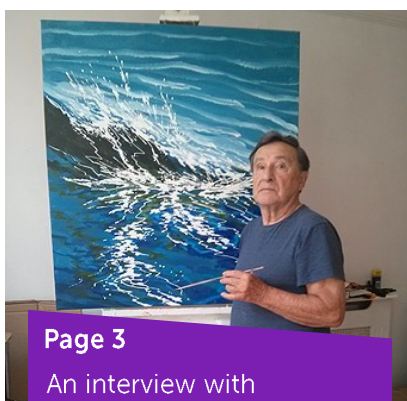
Welcome to the Spring issue of the Cecily's Fund newsletter. We're now drawing closer to our two exciting events coming up in May. On page 3, you'll find an extract from an exclusive interview with **painter Raymond Martinez** who will be exhibiting his remarkable work for us in Burford on May 25th and 26th. On page 7, you'll also find a reminder about our special **sightseeing walk in London** led by Cecily's Fund founders Alison and Basil Eastwood, which takes place on May 11th and promises to be a great day out.

To help mark two years of our **DREAMS Innovation Challenge** project we take a look at four of the project's successes on page 4. On page 5, you can read about **Esther Chitambala**, formerly supported by us and who is now an intern for our partners CHEP, who kindly share her story.

On pages 6 and 7 we turn to community fundraising. Cecily's Fund co-founder Basil thanks **Bedaes School and his choir** for their superb recent support, while **Rhydian Sandbrook** prepares for his very personal Newport Marathon.

Finally, on page 8 we take a look at how we're investing in futures with our **youth-centred model of development**.

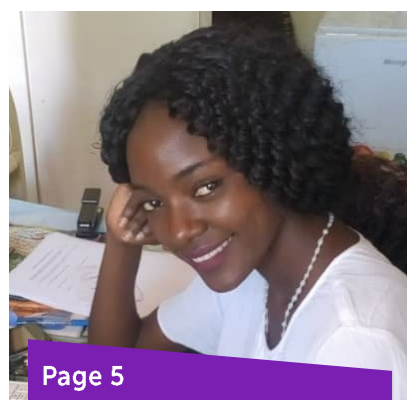
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Social

Keep up with our news on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube at /cecilysfund and on Instagram at cecily.fund



About and Contact

Cecily's Fund is registered charity **1071660**. Our work makes education possible for orphaned and vulnerable children in Zambia.

For Newsletter Feedback -
Andy Johnson, Marketing and
Communications Officer
andy@cecilysfund.org

For General Enquiries -
Georgina Winks, Supporter
Relations Officer
georgina@cecilysfund.org

For Fundraising Enquiries -
Anne Cooper, Senior
Fundraiser
acooper@cecilysfund.org

Phone
01993 358 089 / 186

Post
Ground Floor, 6 Church Green,
Witney, Oxon, OX28 4AW

Website
www.cecilysfund.org



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Our youth-centred model
of development



An interview with remarkable painter Raymond Martinez

We learn more about how the internationally-renowned painter became a professional artist, and the inspiration behind his remarkable work

During Oxfordshire Artweeks 2019, Cecily's Fund will host a special exhibition for the first time. Acclaimed painter **Raymond Martinez** will exhibit a selection of his works at **Warwick Hall, Burford, on May 25th and 26th**. Ahead of this exciting event, we spoke to Raymond about how he became an artist, and the inspiration for his unique work.

How and why did you become a painter?

I was born in Barry, South Wales. As a child I loved to draw and paint the beauty of my local area. The headmaster of my grammar school forced me to take the exam in one year instead of two as he disliked my independent nature. My art teacher was brilliant. As my father was killed in the war my art teacher became my mentor. He sent all my work to the Vale of Glamorgan Art Scholarship committee. I was awarded a four year bursary enabling me to take my degree at Cardiff College of Art. Without this I would have been unable to continue to study art.

How would you describe the work you will be showing at Oxfordshire Art Weeks?

The work to be shown will include paintings from my

time in Italy and the seascapes I have produced since returning to the UK. These works will include a variety of media, oil on canvas, acrylic, and oil pastels.

Your work has been shown round the world. Is there a particular exhibition that has meant a lot to you?

My first exhibition at The Lefebvre Gallery was the one I remember most vividly, since I met a number of famous people from all backgrounds. This included such well known individuals as the painter L.S. Lowry, the film stars David Niven and Robert Morley, and the writer Francis Durbridge. At this point in time I realised I had progressed from being a student to a professional artist.

See Raymond's work at Warwick Hall, Burford (OX18 4RY) on May 25 and 26. 85% of proceeds from paintings sold go to Cecily's Fund. For more information and to read the full interview, visit cecilyfund.org/artweeks

To register your interest, contact Senior Fundraiser Anne Cooper on 01993 358 089 or acooper@cecilyfund.org

Learning for Life: two years on from the DREAMS Innovation Challenge

The success of our Christmas Appeal in 2018 is helping to extend our support to over 200 girls in Chingola, where our interventions have been changing lives. In this issue, we look back at four highlights of this work to keep girls in school safe from HIV and to build the skills and prospects of their families and communities to help break the cycle of poverty for good.



With our support, over 200 vulnerable girls will progress to the next school grade in 2019. While in school, the girls will have a greater understanding of how to stay healthy and to avoid HIV. They will also learn how to improve their chances of finding regular employment.



One of our interventions has been to make learning support and exam-boosting sessions available to vulnerable girls - 769 took part in 2017. This reflects our belief that it is vital that a girl's right to education is respected, and also that they are helped to do well in school.



In another key intervention, mothers and daughters have received entrepreneurship training. Now, they are better able to start and maintain their own profitable businesses, helping them to afford school fees and a better future for their family.



With our support, GROW Groups have been set up in the community. These help mothers access crucial business finance. At a meeting of the Kasala group, savings of 3,000 kwacha were used to provide six loans to mothers, at a much lower interest rate than a bank would offer.



"Cecily's Fund helped me - and I would love to help others": Esther's story

With the help of Cecily's Fund, Esther has overcome tremendous challenges. Now an intern for our local partner CHEP, she is aiming high for her future

Esther Chitambala, 20, is currently working as an intern for the Copperbelt Health Education Project (CHEP), a longstanding partner of Cecily's Fund. In time, Esther hopes to be able to train to be a nurse at a college in Western Province - and her future looks bright.

The situation hasn't always been as positive for Esther. She has overcome dramatic challenges to reach this point in her life. That she has come so far is testament both to the impact of Cecily's Fund support, and to the incredible tenacity and determination of young Zambians like Esther.

Esther was born in Mufulira in 1999, and her father passed away when she was just 11 months old. Her mother, lacking education and suffering a serious loss of income, could not provide for Esther and her four older siblings. The family moved to Kitwe to live with her aunt.

These years were very difficult. Esther's aunt was diagnosed with cancer, had to have her leg amputated and could no longer work. "When I started going to school", Esther says, "my mother could not afford to get me a school uniform and shoes. My friends would tease me and that was a painful experience."

Resolving to succeed in education, Esther worked hard and passed her exams. Her school fees, which her family could not afford, were paid by Cecily's Fund after she was identified as being in need. After completing school in

2017, Esther was trained by CHEP and became a Peer Health Educator (PHE).

"I was able to reach out to my peers and educate them on health issues and the preventive measures of HIV and AIDS", Esther says of her time as a PHE. In addition to working in schools, Esther has tried hard to talk to her friends and family to help combat the stigma experienced by people living with AIDS.

Having completed her time as a PHE and now working as an intern for CHEP, Esther has her eyes on the future. "I want to become a nurse because I want to care for people so that I can give back to my country", she says. "Cecily's Fund helped me and I would love to help others through nursing."

We're very grateful to Esther for working with CHEP and for sharing her story, and we wish her all the best for her future.

To read more inspiring stories like Esther's, visit cecilysfund.org/stories

Your support makes this work possible. Donate today at cecilysfund.org/donate



Pitch-perfect fundraising

Cecily's Fund co-founder Basil thanks Bedales School for their Great South Run success, and helps a choir concert raise £595

Cecily's Fund co-founder Basil Eastwood has been busy lately - first thanking Bedales School for their brilliant fundraising in the Great South Run, and then taking part in a choir concert that has raised £595.

Bedales School have a long-standing and supportive relationship with Cecily's Fund, because Cecily was a student there. Last October, the school community put together a team to take on the **Great South Run** for the second time. In all, the 32 runners together raised £2,171. In March, Basil visited the school to thank them for their loyalty and ongoing support.

Bedales' Director of External Communications Rob Reynolds said, "We are very grateful to Basil Eastwood for coming to talk about the life-changing work of Cecily's Fund. We were all inspired to hear how the charity is making such a difference by enabling so many vulnerable children to attend school in Zambia."

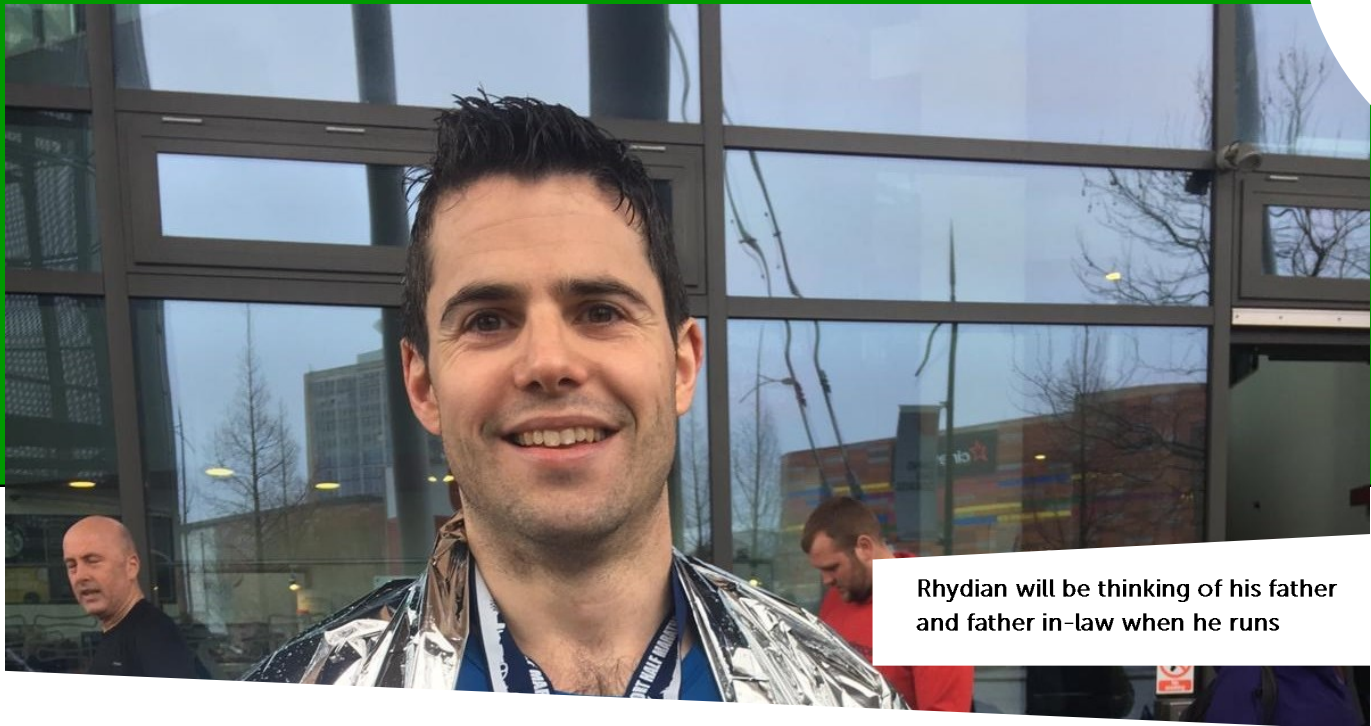
On Saturday April 6th, Basil performed as part of the Chipping Norton Choral Society at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Deddington. The Society performed the African Sanctus by David Fanshawe. "David's widow came to tell the audience about his journeys through Africa", Basil explains, "and she encouraged them to give generously to Cecily's Fund." We're very grateful for the superb and generous total of £595 the audience gave, which will make a real difference to our work - thank you!



**Ready for a challenge of your own?
Contact Cecily's Fund today to secure a
place in the 2019 London 10K on July 21st.**

**Or, sign up to another amazing challenge,
either in the UK or abroad.**

**Email andy@cecilysfund.org for more
information. We'd love to have you on the
team!**



"This one is for the dads": Why Rhydian's marathon means so much

The run to benefit Cecily's Fund and Prostate Cymru has deep meaning for him - find out how you could challenge yourself too

On May 5th, Rhydian Sandbrook will run the Newport Marathon in South Wales. While Rhydian recently completed the Newport half, this will be his first full-length marathon and it has a very personal meaning for him.

The money he raises will be split between Cecily's Fund and Prostate Cymru, a charity based in Wales which is helping in the fight against prostate cancer. Rhydian has a strong connection with each cause: his father-in-law, David, died in July 2018 and had been a long-time supporter of Cecily's Fund. His own father has been

helped by Prostate Cymru, after his own diagnosis.

Rhydian's family have been long-time supporters of Cecily's Fund. His sister-in-law, Sarah, ran the London Marathon for us back in 2014.

Rhydian's efforts will make a big difference to our work in Zambia. Please help him reach (and exceed!) his £300 fundraising target so that a brilliant total can be raised for both Cecily's Fund and the vital work of Prostate Cymru. A big and sincere thank you from the Cecily's Fund team in the UK and our local partners in Zambia!

Donate to Rhydian's Virgin Money Giving fundraising page at <http://bit.ly/2FhPb7g>

If you're inspired by Rhydian's efforts and would like to do something to support Cecily's Fund, why not take part in our special **London walk on May 11th?**

Beginning at Trafalgar Square, the route will be around three miles long and will take in some of the capital's most historic landmarks. The £19 donation we ask you to make will help us keep girls in school in Chingola.

To learn more and sign up, visit cecilysfund.org/walk2019



Investing in futures: how young people are at the centre of what we do

Cecily's Fund believes that giving young people a key role in what we do is crucial to ensuring that our work is successful and sustainable. That's why we're pioneering a youth-centred model of development.

What is youth-centred development?

In our way of working, children and young people are not just passive recipients of our support. Instead, they are active drivers of the change that our work is bringing to their communities.

In many cases, young people directly implement our projects, engaging with their own peers. This builds on our work with Peer Health Education, in which sessions are open and accessible precisely because they are run by young people who, with our help, have overcome the challenge that their younger peers now face.

How does it work?

Peer Health Education helps children to stay healthy, be confident and believe in themselves. In addition, our Peer Health Educators (PHEs) also act as vital role models and run Sunshine Clubs based in communities and schools. These are safe spaces in which young people can further develop their life skills and build a positive attitude using sport, drama, music, entrepreneurship and friendship.

With these methods, Cecily's Fund and our local partners are helping to build a generation of Zambians who are healthier, more skilled, and better able to build a better future for themselves and their country.



Through PHE sessions, children learn from their older peers



Sunshine Clubs are run by trained Sunshine Leaders



Entrepreneurship skills training helps young people get into business



About Cecily |

Cecily's Fund is named for Cecily Eastwood, who died in Zambia during her gap year in 1997. We were set up by her parents, Alison and Basil.

While in Zambia, Cecily worked with orphans and vulnerable children. For over 20 years, we've done the same - our work has helped over 20,000 children and we've spent over £6 million on projects in the country. Over time, we've expanded beyond paying school fees and our work now offers a comprehensive approach to building brighter futures in Zambia and helping to break the cycle of poverty.