

# Nicky's Foundation

Supporting vulnerable people in rural south west Cameroon



# Newsletter

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## Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of Nicky's Foundation Newsletter.

As we reach our 10-year anniversary milestone we wanted to celebrate our achievements by sharing some memorable moments from the last decade.

In each edition of the newsletter we will share updates from all aspects of Nicky's Foundation's work and will include shining the spotlight on one area. In this first edition we focus on the Livelihood Skills Project. We hope to include special features from our team members too.

We would welcome feedback from our readers on ways we can improve the newsletter and if you are planning to hold or have held a fundraising event on behalf of Nicky's Foundation and would like us to share it here then please get in touch.



Nicky's Foundation team member and a primary school teacher supporting a child as part of the Inclusive Education Project, please read more below.

## Meet the Nicky's Foundation Core Team



**Nicky**

Nicky Smith, Director & Trustee

Nicky divides her time between the UK and Cameroon



**Helen**

Helen Nku, Trustee

Helen is an occupational therapist and has spent 4 years working in Cameroon



**Anita**

Anita Larkins, Trustee

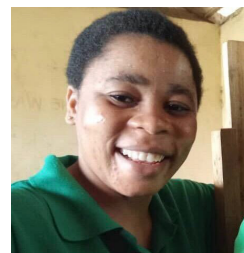
Anita has visited Nicky's Foundation in Mamfe on two occasions and is a key member of our fundraising team



**Thomson**

Regional Coordinator and Project Manager

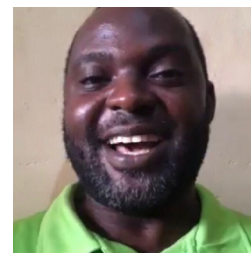
Thomson is a senior social worker and an experienced community based rehabilitation worker. He leads the team in Cameroon



**Mildred**

Supervisor, Community Based Rehabilitation Team

Mildred leads our team of community based rehabilitation workers and volunteers



**Hansel**

Divisional Coordinator and Teacher

Hansel is an experienced teacher and social worker and brings a combination of skills to the team

## 10 Years Anniversary of Nicky's Foundation

There is so much to celebrate as we look back over the last 10 years.

The team in Mamfe has grown from 2 members to 10 with many visiting volunteers joining us for specific project work. We remember Daniel who joined us in 2015/16 to assist with the Prosthetics project. Daniel, a prosthetic limb wearer himself, brought with him lived experience and technical expertise and we were able to provide many beneficiaries with a prosthetic limb and a rehabilitation plan. Thank you, Daniel (pictured to the left with one of our beneficiaries)

Our pioneering Inclusive Education Project which was launched in 2016 in the Government Primary School in Mamfe gave local primary school children with disabilities the opportunity to attend school close to home. Through partnership working with the Baptist Health Convention Empowerment and Inclusive Development (EDID) Program we trained sign language interpreters who now work alongside teaching staff to ensure children with a hearing impairment are included in lessons. The school environment has also been modified to provide access to children requiring mobility devices.

The launch of our Livelihood Skills project in 2022 has provided entrepreneurship opportunities to young people with disabilities. Read more in our feature below.

## Celebration Tea Party

To mark the successes of the first 10 years we brought together many of our supporters, donors and fundraisers to celebrate all that we've achieved.

It was a warm September afternoon, perfect for a tea party and a chance to catch up with many members of the Nicky's Foundation family.



It was great to be able to look back over the years and to share new ideas for the future while eating some of the yummy celebration cake!

## Special Feature - Mildred's Story

Meet Mildred.

My name is Ayum Mildred Nkongho.

I am a community-based rehabilitation field supervisor, working with Nicky's Foundation in Mamfe, southwest region of Cameroon.

How did you find out about Nicky's Foundation?

After I completed my degree program, graduated in 2020 from the University of Buea, the quest to look for a job could not be measured as I had to move out of the town. I was down to Mamfe to serve as a part time secretary at the Divisional Delegation of Social Affairs Mamfe. Fortunately for me, the Delegate who employed me asked me during my interview if it will be a problem connecting me to another institution as he was not certain then of his stay and I told him there is no problem at all as I just wanted to engage myself doing something. Then he gave me an address which took me to the Social Center where I met with Mr Thomson Ntuba and found out he was the coordinator of Nicky's Foundation. That was how I came to know about the organization.

What has been your experience of working as part of the Nicky's Foundation Team?

I started as a volunteer in February 2021. Working with the organization for the past 3 years has been a great plus to me. Personally, I've gained a lot of knowledge, skills in rehabilitation especially with regards disability, and professionally, being sponsored by Nicky's Foundation and the Baptist Health Convention to take a course program from Baptist School of Public Health in Mutengene (community-based rehabilitation) has been a career path adding to my qualifications.

What are your aspirations for the future?

My future aspirations are to help Nicky's Foundation meet up with their vision, mission, and objectives towards the vulnerable persons in our society. I intend to share and empower others to stand and represent the organization anywhere, anytime.



## Spotlight On: Livelihood Skills Project

Our Livelihood Skills project launched in June 2022.

Apprenticeships are aimed at youths with disabilities with a focus on recruiting those who have been displaced by the ongoing civil conflict in the southwest region of Cameroon.

The Project has two main aims:

1. To raise awareness of, and advocate for, young people with disabilities.
2. To offer apprenticeship training opportunities



Trainee enjoying learning the art of becoming a barber as part of his apprenticeship

Other opportunities are available such as classes in basic literacy and numeracy as many young people have missed years of school/education.

These fundamental skills are building blocks to developing skills in entrepreneurship and business skills.



Trainees in the classroom

## Fundraising

We are always looking for new and innovative fundraising ideas. That doesn't mean to say our regular events get any less attention!

The annual plant sale took place in May at Peasehall and Sibton Methodist Chapel and expanded once again to include cakes and treats! Weather was perfect and lots of visitors came along. A huge thank you to our team of volunteers who nurtured plants and helped make the day a tremendous success.



## Upcoming Events

### Quiz and Curry Night

Friday 3rd November 7pm at Heathlands Community Centre. Would be lovely to see some of you there, please get in touch if you'd like to bring a team or if you want to come and join a team when you arrive. Everyone is very welcome.

### Christmas Raffle

An online event with 3 winners receiving vouchers as prizes. Please follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to find out more.

### Pet Portraits

Have you ever thought about getting a portrait painted of your pet? We are delighted to be teaming up with Dawn who will paint a pet portrait and donate 100% of the money taken to Nicky's Foundation.

Please visit <https://www.com/dawnofsomething/> or [info@nickysfoundation.co.uk](mailto:info@nickysfoundation.co.uk) to find out more!

## Nicky's Foundation

[www.nickysfoundation.org](http://www.nickysfoundation.org)  
contact us at [info@nickysfoundation.co.uk](mailto:info@nickysfoundation.co.uk)

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