

HELPING ALL WE CAN...ONE AT A TIME.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Deanna Wallace
AAO Executive Director

In this month's note, I want to share **THE** reason we were able to meet our September budget, and then I'll present the challenges we have for October. I'm hoping this story will inspire many to help!

We had an enormous budget deficit this month, and I was not sure how it could be met. **But, on September 7, a group of selfless individuals came together as a team, and truly saved us.** The team of cyclists was organized by **Tom Rendell**, and included **Louise Clark, Fliss Rendell, Ed Gunn, Jaime Matthews, Nick Young, George Marchant, Len Collacott** and **Andrea Lewis**. Their goal was to set off from Land's End — the most westerly point of England — and cycle 260 miles to Bristol, to raise money for AAO.



Nick Morton, serving as tour manager, worked tirelessly to ensure the team's safety and keep them functioning along the way.

Tom mentions one stop they made at the Penlee Lifeboat Memorial, where there is a sign that reads "SERVICE NOT SELF." He says, "That sums up the whole team who took part this weekend. Buttering sarnies at 0530, barbecuing at 2130, and 100 other tasks in between, cheerfully volunteered. From everyone, without exception, with not a cross word, despite intense physical discomfort, fatigue and a manic timetable." **Including Gift Aid (a lovely UK tax incentive), the group raised £4840.88.**



To say this gift helped us in September would be an understatement. **Words can't begin to express our gratitude to this amazing group of people!** I don't think they realize how profoundly their actions have affected the children in our care.

➤ But now I must present the current situation, and hope that there will be another saving force for this coming month. **As of this writing, we are needing \$9000 to cover the usual monthly budget for October. In addition to this, school tuition fees are due, in the amount of \$5000.**

The struggle to keep our doors open seems overwhelming and often daunting, but, because of amazing supporters like you and those mentioned above, we have been able to do it. Please help us continue. If you are able to donate funds, please do. If you are able to share our situation with businesses, churches or other organizations, please do. If you are able to share our Facebook posts, please do. **We need you more than ever. We couldn't do a bit of this without you!**



Thanks to our first time donor in August 2018:

Andres Lopez

Thanks for giving over \$500 in August 2018:

Sharon Beecham

And thank you to our regular monthly supporters, who make our work possible!