



Antokia Children's Charity

(Registered Charity. No. 1107138)

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2008

We are very happy to report that in this last year we have been able to help more disadvantaged children in Uganda access education and thus improve the quality of their lives and their potential for future employment.

So we begin this newsletter with thanks from our trustees and committee to every one of you who has supported us. We could not continue our efforts without your generosity.

PRIMARY CHILDREN IN MBARARA

In addition to receiving their fees, uniform, simple lunch and scholastic and hygiene materials, the 49 children we support at Bishop Stuart Primary School will soon have a proper kitchen with wood burning eco-stoves. So the cook will no longer be limited to cooking on stones in the make-shift facilities you see in the photo. We were able to send out £5,500 for the building of a brick kitchen, which will benefit not only ACC sponsored children but all the others too as a school meal service is now becoming a reality for this primary school. The fare: posho and beans 10p, porridge 5p! The school is planting an orchard and eucalyptus trees to ensure that fruit and firewood are available. It's a simple truth that children cannot study on empty (really empty) stomachs, so we are working with the school on schemes to make sure that all the children can have sufficient food midday. Building work has started and our next newsletter will proudly feature the new kitchen in use. Of course it doesn't stop there; we would like to raise a further £15,000 to build a dining hall! Then our children would have someWHERE, as well as someTHING, to eat. The site has already been decided! ACC sent out £2,850 in 2007 for the school fees and upkeep of our 51 primary students in Mbarara town.



Cooking on stones



The make-shift kitchen

www.antokia.org.uk

VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Building had stopped at 1 metre



Building up to roof level

The children of Kabarama Primary School in the hills 60 kms South West of Mbarara town will soon be able to go to school every day! A shortage of classrooms meant that some classes had to follow a rota and use a church and a house in the village. The children of St James Junior School in Tunbridge Wells raised funds to build toilets in 2005 and since then have been donating towards bricks and mortar for the classrooms. When we visited the Ugandan school in February the building had reached approx 1m. With further donations from St James, and a separate donation specifically for this project, the 3 new classrooms have become another reality! As you can see from the second photo, the building has now reached roof level. And by the time you read this, the roof will be on. Our next newsletter will feature the children making full use of the completed classrooms. Again, it doesn't stop there as we would like to be able to provide furniture and scholastic materials.

DISABLED PRIMARY CHILDREN



The director (far left) and Tukore students



Deaf children at Tukore

We continue to support a number of children at an under funded boarding school for primary children with all kinds of disabilities. Many of them are deaf as a result of inadequate medical attention during childhood illnesses. Last year we donated playground equipment and contributed to the completion of two classrooms. When we visited the school this February we saw some of the deaf children being taught in them. However, more rooms are required so management and parents are struggling to build another new classroom, specifically for the use of children with learning difficulties. It is half way there and, if at all possible, we'd like again to contribute to its completion. Please let us know if you would like to donate to this or any of our other projects. The Tukore School is unique in that many of the teachers also have physical disabilities. The director, seen here with a small group, is quite wonderful in his keen management of the school and the compassionate ethos which he has created. ACC sent out £750 in 2007 for the fees and upkeep of disabled children.

SECONDARY SPONSORSHIP

30 teenagers who would not have been able to continue after primary school are enjoying the benefits of secondary education and also the friendship of a UK sponsor. It takes 4 years to study to O level in

Uganda and, although this by no means guarantees employment, it makes it more attainable and opens doors to some skills courses. At the beginning of the school year in February 2008 we were able to

find sponsors for 5 deserving secondary students: Shallon, Jonah, Elvis, Pascal and Safan. Elvis is an exceptionally bright boy, whose photograph was in a national newspaper when the results of the Primary Leaving exams came out. Sadly, he has a difficult home background but, thanks to his sponsors, we have been able to place him in a very academic school, one of the best in Uganda.

We are careful to give girls at least an equal chance of education with boys at all levels. They appreciate their sponsorships and are usually very good in corresponding. This is an extract from Eudia's letter to

FAMILY SUPPORT

ACC does not stray from its main aim of enabling disadvantaged children in Uganda to go to school. But sometimes - in the worst cases - background support with the family is necessary in order to enable the children to go to school. Many of you will remember the situation with Mama Emmanuel, a widowed mother of four children, who is almost blind, suffers from depression and has absolutely no income. ACC supports all 4 children, 2 at secondary school and 2 at primary.



Mama Emmanuel and 2 of her children - now healthier and happier

For the past four years a kind hairdresser in Tunbridge Wells has donated all her tips to support Mama Emmanuel, and she also sponsors two secondary students! In that time she has financed the building of a new, brick built house, basic furniture, medical treatment for Mama Emmanuel and the children and a monthly allowance to buy food. Of course, she doesn't want her identity revealed and she insists that the money comes not from her but from her clients! She is a kind and selfless person. ACC - and Mama Emmanuel's family - thank her and her clients most sincerely.

her sponsor last term, "...thank you very much for sponsoring me because I was nowhere but now am somewhere and I was nobody but now I am somebody." She sent this with her end of term report, which showed she had come 2nd in the class, actually after being 1st in the previous 2 terms. She is a bright girl who would otherwise have been out of school with no hope of employment, and who may well have been married off very early.

In 2007 ACC sent out £5,800, given by individual sponsors, for the education of secondary students.

POST SECONDARY SPONSORSHIP

Some sponsors decide to continue with their students after supporting them through secondary school. This year **Gift** started a diploma course in Library and Communication studies at Kyombogo University, **Patience** started a degree course in Economics at Makerere University and **Edith** started a Nursery Teacher training course in Mbarara. Three sponsors share the cost of **Gelverse's** training to be a doctor. He is in his second year at Mbarara University and is able to help the charity by visiting and taking care of Mama Emmanuel and her family.

Lucy Clark

The Clark family have supported ACC since our early days. In 2007 Verity made Christmas cards with photos of ACC village children and donated her savings on commercial cards to the charity. Her daughter, Lucy, visited Uganda in January, spending some of her time with Afrinspire, one of our buddy charities, and travelling to projects in different parts of the country. She finished up in Mbarara and visited some of the ACC projects. She got to know the primary school and the headmaster, and viewed the land where our new kitchen is now being built. She met our town and village agents, Benon and Nelson, respectively, and also Gelverse, and Mama Emmanuel and her family. Lucy has resigned from her job in London and will go back to Mbarara in June for a few months, being based at the Development Studies Centre there. She will do some teaching at the primary school in Mbarara and help us support family projects. So she will be closely in touch with ACC children. This is a great help to us as it has become more difficult for us to go out more than once per year. We wish Lucy well and thank her in advance for all the good work she will be doing.

FUNDRAISING

SPRING WALK in May raised £300. Our thanks to Paul and Lyn Johnson in Groombridge.

AUCTION OF PROMISES in October raised £3,900. Our thanks to Sue Skomorowski and her team for organising a wonderful social evening and to St Barnabas Church for the hall.

LUCY CLARK raised over £1,000 by doing a sponsored bike ride and a half marathon.

Funds have been kindly donated from a variety of other sources. Here are a few: instead of Christmas/anniversary cards/presents, sponsored Great South Run, from Rotary for village school toilets, Christmas market stall, in memory of someone.

We thank all of you who have given so generously.

2008

SPRING WALK - an annual event, affectionately called our "DOG WALK"
2.30 pm Sunday 18 May 2008

Starting at St Paul's Church, Rusthall, and finishing for tea in the Norman Mantell Lodge in the churchyard. Dogs not obligatory but all are welcome!

JUST TURN UP

Donations of cakes, etc. (please let us know in advance) and other donations gratefully received.

COULD YOU HOST AN EVENT?

Could you host a social evening, a lunch or a party of some kind - however small - in your own home to raise funds for our children and projects in Uganda? We will gladly support.

FASHION SHOW - in the pipeline

We'd like our next event to be a fashion show and at least one supporter is keen to make it happen. Have you got experience or expertise? Do you know of a suitable venue? If so, we need your help.

Please get in touch.

STANDING ORDER SCHEME

You can help us in our planning by joining our Standing Order Scheme. This is the easy, painless way to provide stability and education for disadvantaged children in Uganda.

We can claim Gift Aid.

If you are interested in this or our Individual Sponsorship Scheme, please get in touch.



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