



Daphine at home 2005



Daphine at school 2007

Antokia Children's Charity

(Registered Charity. No. 1107138)

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support us through the last year, enabling us to give more disadvantaged children in Uganda the opportunity to go to school - something which we believe is the right of every child.

This newsletter tells you what Antokia Children's Charity (ACC) has been up to in this last action packed year.

Please get in touch if you are a new supporter who would like to receive previous newsletters, or you may wish to access them on our website.

Barbara and Ian visited Mbarara in 2010 as they do every January/February, at the start of the Ugandan school year, to monitor the projects and to work and consult with teachers, children and families. Administration costs are kept to an absolute minimum and grants are locally administered. Working at grass roots level ensures accountability and that those receiving help are the ones most in need.

PRIMARY CHILDREN IN MBARARA TOWN

Our main focus of support continues to be the Bishop Stuart Primary School, which caters for 700 children in Mbarara town. Here ACC enables 50 orphaned or otherwise disadvantaged children to attend school and provides all their scholastic requirements, uniforms, hygiene items and, crucially, their lunches. As we reported in the last newsletter, ACC replaced the tin hut with a brick-built kitchen and wood burning eco-stoves to improve the catering facilities which ensure these children get one cooked meal every school day. We had previously found that children couldn't study on empty stomachs! This has proved so successful that a second cook has been employed and the meal service is benefiting other children in the school. In 2009, with the help of a grant from outside, we were able to respond to the school's requests for more desks and chairs for both pupils and teachers, 6 computers and a printer, and a new pit latrine for the girls.

We are delighted to tell you that this school is now partnered with East Peckham Primary School, Kent, through the DFID Global School Partnership scheme run by the British Council. Barbara and Ian were able to take out a file of materials and children's letters from Kent in January and return with a similar package from Uganda in February - all beautifully bound in banana leaf and bark cloth. We thank Lucy Clarke, who, through ACC, had worked voluntarily at the Ugandan school in 2008, for making the contacts in the UK which led to the partnership.



We work directly with the Headmaster and School Management Committee to select the most needy students and to negotiate provision of further facilities. They regularly express their gratitude to all of you, but we were bowled over this year to be presented with a plaque!

In 2009 ACC donated £3,767 for the Primary education of 50 children. We donated £3,500 for the furniture, computers and pit latrine.



New desks & chairs



Computers for the teachers



Latrines for the girls

VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

In 2009, with the help of a grant from an outside organisation, we were able to finish our construction of a three classroom block at Kabarama Primary School in the hills 60ms from Mbarara. This grant provided "luxury" touches such as glazed windows and plastered walls! It also paid for classroom furniture and wall mounted blackboards. When, in 2009, one of the classroom blocks in the next village, Rubingo, was brought down by a heavy storm (luckily at a weekend when the children were not there), our grant source was willing to help again. Barbara and Ian visited the work in progress in February as reconstruction was nearing completion. They also saw the classrooms in nearby Kabarama in full use. So now children in both villages have safe and secure classrooms, of which they are very proud. Both villages also have latrines built by ACC in previous years!



Reconstruction in Rubingo



Happy children in Kabarama

In March 2009 ACC donated £4,865 towards finishing and furnishing of the classrooms in Kabarama.

In December 2009 we contributed £3,900 towards the reconstruction of the classroom block in Rubingo.



Furniture and glazed windows

DISABLED PRIMARY CHILDREN

The Tukore residential school for primary children with disabilities, a few miles outside Mbarara, has a very special place in our hearts. The children have a range of physical disabilities and learning difficulties, but an inordinate number of them are completely deaf, often as a result of untreated illnesses in infancy. Many of the teachers, including the director, a founder member of the school, have physical disabilities, and all work long hours in very challenging conditions.

One enormous challenge is that the school has no electricity supply, so there are no refrigerators, fans, or electric lighting! There are certainly no computers! The school is residential so the absence of electric lighting is tough for any of the small children waking in the night; there are 12 hours of darkness all year round so near the equator. It is even tougher if they are deaf and their usual means of communication is signing! ACC's special project this year is the purchase and installation of solar panels to provide energy for lights. We are hoping to be able to complete the project and get the panels installed soon. Photos will be taken when we visit in January/February 2011 and will be in our next newsletter.

A donation from an ACC supporter enabled the school to erect a large tank to collect rainwater.

In 2009 ACC donated £1,646 to Tukore School.

A Success Story: *Munanyuke, a deaf boy at this school, was our first individual sponsorship. He completed his 7 years of primary schooling in 2009 and his sponsors in the UK are continuing to support him to take a two year carpentry course so that he will be able to earn a living. The course is especially for deaf students and is run by carpenters, who themselves are deaf and who studied at Tukore School. This is a great opportunity for Munanukye, and we hope he does well.*



SECONDARY SPONSORSHIP

ACC arranges the individual sponsorship of 40 secondary students. Without a sponsor none of these children would have been able to go on to secondary school, which would have meant that they almost certainly would never have been able to compete in the employment market. Yet all are bright and some are coming top of their classes.

Since the last newsletter 6 students have taken O levels. Three have gone on to take vocational courses and two are taking A level courses. ACC found new sponsors in the UK for seven students who had done well at primary school and who have now started their secondary education.

An individual supporter funded mosquito nets for all ACC secondary students.

ACC donated £10,843, mainly from individual sponsorship, for secondary education in 2009.

Here are some quotations from letters from secondary students to their UK sponsors:

"...The reason for writing this letter is to thank you for the thing you have done for me and paying my school fees..." **Edgar 2009**

"...Without your generosity I could not have gone to secondary school and I would have rotted in the village..." **Boaz 2009**

"...Thank you for sponsoring me because I was nowhere but now I am somewhere & I was nobody but now I am somebody..." **Eudia 2007**

POST SECONDARY SPONSORSHIP

Emmanuel finished school in November 2009 and started a 2 year motor mechanic course.

Apophia finished school in November 2009 and started a 2 year nursing course in March.

Alice finished school in November 2009 and started a 2 year nursing course in May.

Evalyn started her 3rd year of electrical engineering in February 2010.

Godwin started his 2nd year of electrical engineering in February 2010.

Patience is in her 3rd year at Makerere University, studying Economics.

Vittal is in his 3rd year of a nursing degree course at Makerere.

Gelverse is in his 3rd year of training as a doctor at Mbarara University.

Nelson is in his final year of a part-time degree in Education at Makerere.

Edith completed a course in nursery education in 2008. She now has her own nursery school with 200 children and 5 teachers.



Emmanuel, trainee mechanic

Gift finished her diploma course in Library and Information Studies with a high grade last year. We were not able to attend her graduation in Kampala but gave her a graduation lunch in Mbarara in February. Here she is looking excited and beautiful.

ACC supporters donated 5 laptops for post secondary students.

ACC donated £5,353, mainly from individual sponsorship, for post-secondary training in 2009.



Gift at her graduation lunch



Kellen with a smile

FAMILY SUPPORT

ACC focuses closely on its main aim of providing education for children in Uganda who would otherwise not be able to go to school. However, we sometimes have to respond to cases where background support of the family is necessary to enable the children to go to school. Currently, we offer varying degrees of support to 5 families.

ACC donated £2,148 to family support in 2009.

One of these families is headed by Kellen, otherwise known to ACC supporters as Mama Emmanuel. She is the widowed mother of four children, is almost blind, suffers from depression and has absolutely no income. Emmanuel is her oldest son and ACC supports the three younger siblings at schools.

TRIBUTE

ACC would like to pay tribute here to Jenny Skilton, proprietor of DAZL Hair and Beauty Salon in Tunbridge Wells, who over the past 6 years has donated her clients' tips to ACC. Not only has she covered Mama Emmanuel's living and medical costs, financed the building of a new brick house, and bought basic furniture, bedding and cooking pots, but she also sponsored 2 unrelated girls, Victoria and Irene, through secondary school. Altogether, she and her clients donated more than £7,000. Without Jenny's regular contributions we would not have been able to save Kellen from starvation and disease and the rest of her family from homelessness and hopelessness. Victoria and Irene have Jenny and her clients to thank for the opportunities which education has given them.



Irene

Victoria



THANK YOU

To everyone who supported our Christmas 2009 appeal. We were so anxious last November that we may not have been able to meet our commitments to the primary school children in 2010, but your wonderful response to our cry for help saw us through. The appeal raised almost £1,700. THANK YOU.

CHRISTMAS CARDS & CHRISTMAS GIFT TOKENS 2010

This year we will be selling very attractive Christmas cards so please don't buy yours elsewhere until you have seen ours. We will also have Christmas gift tokens for you to give your friends and family, a gift which would bring relief and happiness to a Ugandan child or family at Christmas. For example,

£5 buys a school uniform for a primary girl or boy • £12 pays for school lunch every day for a term

£20 buys a pair of strong leather school shoes for a secondary student

£36 pays for school lunch every day for a year • £40 buys books needed by an A level student

£50 buys equipment needed for a carpenter, electrician or mechanic • £100 buys a computer for the primary school

CHARITY CONCERTS AT TONBRIDGE SCHOOL MARCH 2010

The two concerts on 18 and 19 March performed by the boys of Tonbridge School with a girls' choir from Benenden School were beautiful and memorable occasions. The orchestra, choirs, organ, harp and chorus performed a Tchaikovsky overture and a thrilling work composed by Howard Goodall. The full amount raised was £8,000.

Thanks to the Tonbridge School Parents' Arts Society and to everyone involved.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

The children of St Barnabas Sunday School made Antokia Children's Charity, and specifically the Tukore School solar panel appeal, their Lent project this year. A table top sale together with a collection by the children raised £158.

Thank you to children and parents.

A MARATHON FOR ANTOKIA

Tom Davies will run the Beachy Head Marathon (not the easiest one!) in October this year in support of Antokia Children's Charity. Please give Tom and the children in Uganda your support by going to his website: pennyperclick and sponsoring him sometime soon.

A LEGACY THAT WOULD LIVE ON AND ON

Have you thought about including Antokia Children's Charity in your will? Please do. Your money would go where it is so desperately needed and would live on in the education of children.

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.

We are always looking for mobile phones for Uganda. Have you or someone you know upgraded recently?



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