

ANTOKIA CHILDREN'S CHARITY

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1107138



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2006

The Antokia Children's Charity (ACC) has remained a small and very personal charity since it was set up in 2000. Our mission is to give the most disadvantaged children in Uganda, who don't have the family support to go to school or who have had to drop out, the opportunity to study and the chance to improve their lives. We are helping children and students at Primary, Secondary and Tertiary level.

2005-06 has been a year of development and change for ACC. We have been able to set up more links between supporters over here and individuals and schools in Uganda, making several exciting projects possible and enabling us to support more disadvantaged children and students in Uganda.



Primary Children in Kakoba, Mbarara

ACC's greatest change – and expansion – has been with the primary children in Kakoba, Mbarara. The children we sponsor there are the poorest in the area, many of them orphans, who would not be able to go to school if we were not paying the modest school dues and providing lunch. They still live and sleep in their own community, in homes which usually include several children and maybe an adult, often not a parent. Ages range from 6 to 16, as many of the children have had to miss years of schooling before being embraced by the ACC project. It costs us a little more than £5 per month to provide for each child, giving him/her the opportunity to go through primary school, get a Primary Leaving Certificate and so a chance to improve his/her own life.

This year we have been able to increase the number of children from 40 to 48 by changing to working directly with the headmaster of the government school they attend. It is an exciting development for the headmaster and his school as the provision of school lunches is a totally new, but desperately needed, initiative. Working directly with the school improves our knowledge of the children and control of the finances.

Last December 8 ACC children managed to finish primary school with their Primary Leaving Certificate. We were able to find individual sponsors in the UK to enable each one to go on to a secondary education.

Village Primary School

ACC supports the remote village of Kabarama, which is situated in a hilly area 60 km west of Mbarara. The primary school is underfunded, overcrowded and lacks resources and materials which we in the UK would say were essential. The buildings are rudimentary, without window frames or glass and the interiors simply bare bricks. 120 of the youngest children and 2 teachers share one rudimentary classroom.

Last year we were able to build a new boys' latrine for the school with money raised by Soroptimist International, Tunbridge Wells, and this year St James' Primary School, Tunbridge Wells, raised enough for a urinal and sports equipment. It was so rewarding for the children at St James to receive photos of the children in Uganda playing football, basketball and volleyball with equipment *they* had provided. We would like to help further by contributing to the building of at least one more classroom for the school – hopefully a future project. There's a funny side to this project; children from the next village school were defecting to Kabarama because of the new, decent toilets there, so now we are building latrines and urinals at neighbouring Rubingo primary school.!



Primary School for Disabled Children



For several years one of our individual sponsors has been financing a deaf boy to attend one of the few residential units for deaf primary children in Uganda, which is within a school for children with all kinds of disabilities. The school is terribly impoverished and in need of absolutely everything. Last year, courtesy of BA,

Barbara and Ian took a large box of children's books to the school. ACC is now sponsoring 7 more disabled children there and earlier this year we used a personal donation from one of our supporters to buy playground equipment, which was gratefully received and the slides and swings etc are now well used. This school is residential which makes it less likely that the parents can afford the fees. The cost to us may seem small – about £40 **per term** for each child. There is a stigma attached to deafness and disability in some communities; to have the added disadvantage of being



Secondary School Students

ACC is supporting 30 children in secondary schools who are either orphans or whose families cannot afford a secondary education. For most we have found individual sponsors, who write and receive letters. Some students are sponsored by a group of people and one or two are supported by the charity.

At present in Uganda only about 50% of children complete their secondary education



Tertiary Students

Last year ACC helped **Rose** qualify as a midwife and this May a second midwife, **Diana**, completed her course at the same medical school. Both are now fully employed, busily delivering babies!

For the last 2 years ACC has sponsored **Faith**, a university student of social/community work, who had to drop out after her first year in 2004 for lack of funds. She successfully completed her course this summer and is now ready to take on some very challenging work.



Three of our supporters have joined together to pay for the training of a doctor in Uganda. **Gelverse** is someone we know and trust. We arranged for him to return to school as a mature student to take A levels, which he finished last year. He started his course in Medicine this summer at Mbarara University. He now finds that he really needs a laptop. **So, a request:** have any of you recently upgraded your laptop and still have the old one? Or do you know of someone who has? If so, please let us know asap. It would be a godsend for Gelverse.

There are 14,000 people in Uganda to every doctor (compared with 200 in UK), so training of doctors is a very worthwhile use of money. **Peter** is another bright young man we know (his family and his background) who also wishes to study medicine. If you would like to contribute to his training, please get in touch with us. If 2, 3 or 4 people join together, the cost is quite modest.

Mama Emmanuel Project



Emmanuel is one of our secondary students and the oldest of a family of four. We have seen some pretty dreadful home conditions when visiting our students in Uganda but his was the worst. There is no father in the family and his mother was very sick and almost blind. The mud house was crumbling and leaking badly in the rainy season. There were no toilet or water facilities and obviously no electricity. The younger children were malnourished and depressed. An especially wonderful ACC supporter and her clients raised enough for us to have a new house built for Mama Emmanuel, with separate toilet, kitchen

and store room. And we were able to arrange for her treatment at an eye clinic. There is still more to do – more eye treatment, a water supply and possibly setting up a way of her earning a regular income. This is an ongoing project...



Can you help?

- **Laptop needed for trainee doctor.** Please see above
- **Fundraiser sought.** ACC is looking for a new committee member to help us develop our fundraising. It would involve masterminding one large event per year and coordinating other smaller events. In addition, the fundraiser will research what grants are available from other trusts and bodies for particular projects. Could *you* give that extra time, energy and concern? If so, please get in touch.
- **New Sponsors for Secondary Students.** A number of the Kabarama and Kakoba children will be finishing their primary education at the end of this year and we are looking for sponsors to make it possible for them to have a secondary education. It costs £60 per term (payable by standing order - with gift aid refunded) for fees, scholastic materials and personal allowance. The students write directly to sponsors and send their end-of-term reports. We are looking for sponsors who can make a 4 year commitment to give them the opportunity of a secondary education.

Fundraising

Fundraising in 2006

We are grateful to everyone who has given directly to Antokia by standing order or by donation and/or who has actively fundraised in any way in the past. Here are just a few of the events which have taken place since our last newsletter. The *Evening of Magic* at Tonbridge School in December was our big event last year and raised £5,000. There have also been several successful storytelling occasions, a musical evening with *The Baroque Singers*, a wonderful *Children's Summer Concert* as well as other private and personal donations. Thank you!

Forthcoming Fundraising Events

Christmas Carol Evening Friday 8 December 2006 - Venue to be decided!
This will be our usual mixture of singing, comedy, Christmas fare and Christmas cheer. Please put the date in your diary (and let us know if you can offer a suitable venue).

We also have ideas for: a wine tasting, a fashion show and, by popular demand, another auction. We will be sending out information when we have it. Please let us have your email address to help us keep our postal costs down and please let us know if you can help with these events or any others.

Standing Order Scheme

You could help us to ensure stability and essential education for all the children we are supporting by joining our Standing Order Scheme. This is the painless, effortless way to provide for these children, the most disadvantaged in the community.
Remember, there are minimal overheads and administrative costs

Please get in touch if you would like to receive a
Standing Order Form
or if you are interested in the
Individual Sponsorship Scheme for secondary students.

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Please keep an eye on our website for
future developments: www.antokia.org.uk

Cheques to be made payable to
Antokia Children's Charity

