

all our children

Winter 2013

Newsletter No. 1

Making A Difference



Above: Children from Educate a Child - Street Children Uganda pause for a rest during games day in April.

Thank you for being a supporter of All Our Children. Although we are a small charity run entirely by volunteer teachers and retired teachers, we have developed very strong and lasting partnerships with several schools and community projects in Kabale, South-West Uganda. Each year in the Easter holidays, a group of us (teachers and sixth form students) visits Kabale where we work together with Ugandan teachers in the schools and meet the students whom we sponsor. These visits (funded by the teachers and students themselves) help us to meet our charity's three purposes as registered with the Charity Commission:

To advance the education and student support in a range of schools in South West Uganda through school partnerships.

To relieve poverty through the support of individuals and community welfare projects.

To advance the education of UK students through work placements in these schools and projects.

This year saw the seventh visit by a group of staff and students from William Morris Sixth Form (WMSF) in Hammersmith.

The biggest impact of our 2013 visit was on our work with street children. In 2012 we started to sponsor ten of the children to attend school (to their enormous delight); this year we helped their social worker, Junior Tukwasibwe, to organise accommodation for them in the school holidays and to register the project formally with the municipal authorities as a Community Based Organisation, entitled "Educate A Child – Street Children Uganda". Our focus in 2014 will be on how to offer the children additional support with their studies as, naturally, most of them are struggling to catch up.

At our original partner school, Kigezi High School (KHS), a new headteacher, Benon Twinomujuni, along with the whole diocesan governing body, welcomed us warmly and expressed commitment to our partnership. As usual, teachers worked with their Ugandan counterparts to plan lessons and teach them jointly, whilst our students participated in a dance/drama project.

In the centre of Kabale town, at a new school set up by teachers from KHS, Pentagon Secondary School, a sports day, an art exhibition and an afternoon of song and

drama were organised. The sports day was covered by a local radio station interested in how sport can bring together people from different cultures and promote partnership.

Just outside town, the three teachers from Havelock Primary School continued a training programme started in 2012 at Wise Parents' Nursery and Blessed Academy Primary School. Their focus included organisation of books, toys and other resources, fine motor and pre-writing skills, numeracy, and classroom management.

The London students joined our teachers in the schools, participating enthusiastically in the classroom and in all the events. They described their time in Kabale as a moving and eye-opening experience that they will never forget. They were in awe of the deep commitment to education shown by the Ugandan children and their positive attitude, despite having so little by way of material resources.

Sponsorship

It is a sad fact that many Ugandan children do not attend school because their families cannot afford the fees they are required to pay. Without sponsors, they have to delay or give up their education. The stories in this newsletter from students who have been sponsored demonstrate how life-changing sponsorship can be.



A letter to all our children

In April, we were excited to receive a letter from Betty Ochaya (*second from left*), one of the original beneficiaries of All Our Children's predecessor, Solomon's Children. The letter highlights the positive impact that sponsoring a child can have.

Dear All Our Children,

I am grateful that the almighty has kept you up to this time. I am Anyango Betty Ochaya, one of the four children of the late Solomon Ochaya and the greatest beneficiary of Solomon's Children which started sponsoring me in 2003 up to 2008.

With this sponsorship, I developed a peace of mind which enabled me to concentrate on my studies and eventually excelled with three principal passes, way above the expected two principal passes by the university.

Although I didn't get government sponsorship as a result of the stiff competition for the limited slots, the good grade I obtained enabled me to attract well-wishers through efforts of my sister Irene, also a former beneficiary of the fund. Following completion of her secretarial course in 2008, Irene got a job and has since been working as a secretary at Kyambogo University.



Above: The four children of Solomon Ochaya, the original beneficiaries of All Our Children's predecessor charity.

With her income, she was able to contribute to my university fees. All this was possible because of the good background foundation provided by Solomon's Children. I have completed a Bachelors' degree in Economics and I look forward to a brighter future.

I am extremely grateful to the miraculous support by Solomon's Children. Indeed it is good that the new name of the organisation is All Our Children. The four children of the late Solomon have been enabled to get education and it is fitting that other disadvantaged children receive support to shape their future. I pray for God's blessings to our sponsors.

I am happy that I am in turn currently offering voluntary services to the organisation by identifying orphans in my region of northern Uganda and counselling them so that they too can enjoy the benefits of All Our Children.

Best Regards,
Anyango Betty Ochaya

Also included was a photo, going from left to right, youngest to eldest is: Daniel Oyo who completed S6 and is hoping to start University. Next is Betty. Then comes Amos Obina who works for a company in charge of stores. Lastly is Irene Lalam who is as a Secretary with Kyambogo University.

Success stories



Penelope was the first child from the Educate a Child street children centre to be sponsored through All Our Children three years ago. Since receiving support, she has completed primary school and has moved on to secondary education at Nyabikoni Secondary School where she is currently studying in Senior 2, the equivalent of Year 9 in the UK. Last year she was joined by Brenda, another street child who is now back in education through the All Our Children sponsorship programme.

Saidi was the first student to benefit from sponsorship collected at William Morris Sixth Form. Due to the death of his father he was to be asked to leave Kigezi High School for non-payment of fees. After KHS he earned a place at the renowned Makerere University in Kampala studying Agriculture. Whilst studying, he was awarded Entrepreneur of the Year. After this, he went on to take a place at Kigali University to study a Masters Degree. He has now been awarded a scholarship at a Japanese University studying plant genetics.



AOC receives a generous donation

All Our Children trustees were pleased to receive a donation from Ed Bullard of Stromboli Ltd. The sizable donation will be invaluable in helping to sustain the charity's sponsorship programme in Uganda.

Every year PerkinElmer arrange a charity fundraising event called 'For the Better Day', selling cakes and lemonade at their offices in Angel, London, and also conducting other outreach projects in the local area.

This event raised £165, but Ed decided to go beyond matching this donation and wrote a cheque for £2000 after hearing about the progress that has already been achieved in Kabale District.

How you can help us...

As we are run entirely by volunteers, we are always looking for new ways to raise money and new sponsors to come forward. If you would like any information to pass on to friends and family who may be interested in donating ideas or money to All Our Children, please get in touch via mail@allourchildren.org.uk