

Project 2000- Operation Uganda children at risk

Newsletter March 2001

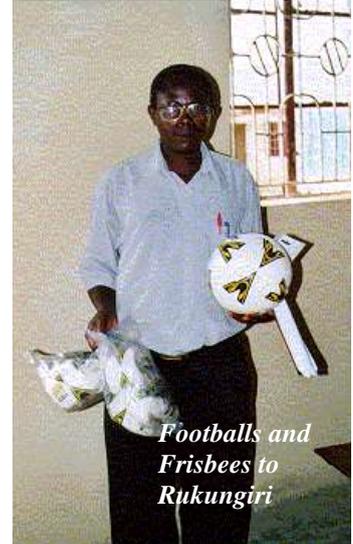
Winterslow and Firsdown provide £5000 for the development of a new vocational training centre

Following the visit of Alice and John Tumusiime to our village in May last year, Matthew and Emma Gothard paid a return visit to Rukungiri in February. They joined three members of Global Care who were visiting Rukungiri and other projects within Uganda in which Global Care are involved.

They stayed two nights in Kampala visiting Stephen Azubu, Global Care's project manager in Kampala before beginning the 7 hour, 250 km. journey to Rukungiri by Landrover. They were made very welcome and stayed in a small hotel run by John and Alice, close to the school and the new vocational training centre.

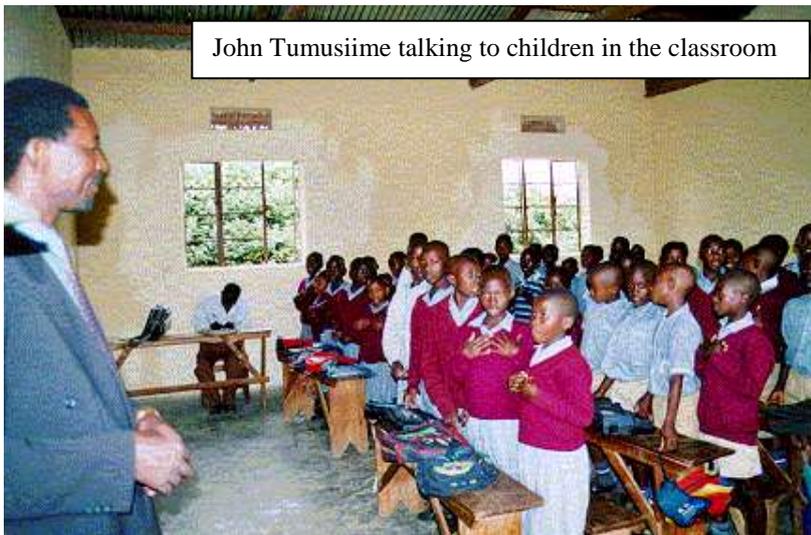
Matthew and Emma took a range of different gifts from the village for use in Rukungiri Primary Modern School of which John is a Director. These included posters for the classrooms, new footballs (with pump), Frisbees, crayons and colouring books etc.

Over 40% of the 800 children in the school have lost both parents through AIDS and two hundred of these children are supported through the efforts of Global Care.



Footballs and Frisbees to Rukungiri

While Matthew and Emma were visiting, John heard that in the Uganda National Exams, (equivalent to our 11 plus) their school had gained the best results in the district. They celebrated by the children parading through the town lead by their newly formed school band.



John Tumusiime talking to children in the classroom

Phase 1 of the training centre is now built, but is still at the shell stage requiring windows, doors, services and equipment. A further £60-70,000 is still needed to complete the whole project. Alice and John aim to have the vocational training centre up and running next year.

It will enable the older children to learn skills to help them find work, or develop their own small businesses. They aim to offer training in skills such as carpentry, mechanics, welding, catering, typing, sewing, and computer skills. Kampala has a great need for trained computer operators to help them compete in the world market and to promote self-development. There is currently a great shortage of these types of skills in Uganda.

Alice and John would like to eventually develop a small shop so that articles produced in the training centre could be sold to make the whole enterprise self funding.



Matthew with the team from Global Care inspects the new building work

The visit was obviously a great success and gives us a much clearer idea where the money is to be spent and what needs to be done. We are now more aware that:

- It is not worth trying to export goods from the UK to Rukungiri since transport costs are high and import duties are often levied at 100% of the value. (second –hand goods are often valued as new)
- If we raise money to enable the purchase of goods and equipment in Uganda we are also supporting the local economy.
- The postal system is unreliable, pictures and other materials sent from the UK have not arrived.

To provide greater accountability a bank account has now been opened in Rukungiri specifically for the vocational training centre to enable the transfer of funds through Global Care.

Winterslow and Firsdow have so far contributed £5000 to Global Care to help with the costs of building the centre and installation of the services needed. Our aim is to provide sufficient funds for the completion and equipping of one of the workshops.



Emma makes a friend

All of the money raised so far in the village has been designated to the project. We have incurred no administration costs and Matthew and Emma's visit was entirely funded by themselves. The committee's only expense has been for a medical kit that is now available for the next visitors. Many organisations and families in the village have been very generous with their support.

At present over 70 families in the village contribute regularly and our aim is to encourage still more individuals and families to support the project. If you know of anyone who would be interested please contact a member of the committee.