

Village 2000 - Uganda

Newsletter April 2006

Webare Munonga! A Big Thankyou from all our Friends in Rukungiri

Another year has passed and the Village 2000 Uganda committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support and give an update on the events of the past few months and also look forward to the year ahead.

The project has now been successfully fundraising and raising awareness for the past 5 years and raised over £40k of which £34.5k has been transferred to Rukungiri and spent on the construction of the Workshops building and accommodation buildings as well as some tools for the students.

During February/March of this year, Rod & Ann Gothard spent two months in Rukungiri. They took as many of the tools collected in the tool amnesty, as luggage allowances would allow. The main aims of their trip was to consolidate on what had already been achieved and generally helping them to raise standards so that Gables Vocational becomes a centre of excellence. This was achieved in various ways firstly by taking out the tools, which have already been put to good use in the projects mentioned below.

Secondly by constructing two water storage tanks and forming gutters to the existing buildings to fill the tanks. By the end of their trip tank 1 was already in use providing much needed water for the students for drinking, washing and cleaning and tank 2 was receiving its final coat of waterproof render. Not only have we provided them with this facility but we have also educated them in maintaining it correctly. The cook now boils up water everyday for staff and students to drink as many were becoming dehydrated reducing their ability to concentrate and work effectively.



Thirdly by finishing the inside of the tailoring workshop by concreting the floor, plastering the walls and glazing the windows. This was particularly important to the tailoring department as the dust was causing problems with the sewing machines. The tailoring students were also shown how to make curtains, cushions and carryout upholstery work as well as improving their dressmaking skills.

Waste disposal is a big problem throughout Uganda with a lack of proper facilities leading to poor health and hygiene standards. A refuse pit was dug

to store the waste and the students educated in its use with litter being collected from around the training centre once a week.

Finally a secure tool store was constructed within the carpentry workshop so that the tools could be stored safely also the students were shown how to construct a canopy table in a local hotel garden so that guests can drink African Tea in the shade. The hotel owners were so pleased that they have ordered another to be constructed asap.

Although the recent trip was very successful Gables Vocational Training Centre still needs our help so that one day it can be self-sustaining. The focus of this help will be to further equip the centre with tools and develop the business side further so that they can generate income whilst training the students.

We are always on the look out for fresh ideas and enthusiastic people to help with our fund raising ventures so if you feel you would like to be part of the Uganda team please contact any member of the committee.

