

PROJECT UGANDA

Building self-sufficiency

Newsletter March 2007

As you all embrace another busy New Year we would like to thank you for taking just a few minutes to read this, our annual newsletter. We are sure that old and new supporters alike are keen to know what the project has achieved during 2006. We have raised £6,127 since Jan '06 bringing the total funds raised to over £42,000. We have also had a boost to funds this year with just under £6,000 being claimed back through the Gift Aid Tax scheme. This clearly demonstrates the importance of Gift Aiding your donations. ***Thank you, this would not have happened without your support.*** We received funds from numerous sources last year including regular donations, the Christmas Craft Market stall, book sales, a Charity Dinner held at HPA-Porton and the Christmas Gift Cards.

Gables Vocational Training Centre is currently struggling to be self-sufficient, as some of the students are unable to pay their full school fees, which in turn means the Centre is unable to pay staff salaries. Due to staff being forced to look elsewhere for employment, there is no option but to cancel some courses, therefore reducing the number of fee paying students! So what can we do? As of this year we have started to support the Vocational Centre in a slightly different way, by sponsoring a member of staff. This will hopefully bring some financial stability to the Vocational Centre and help to attract more fee-paying students again. Secondly, we can improve the facilities by continuing to equip it with good quality tools, and improve the welfare facilities for the students, i.e. build more water storage tanks, washrooms and toilets.



Student conducting a final inspection, all that's needed then is a roof and the rains!



The two water tanks built last year currently hold enough to supply the Vocational Centre for approximately two thirds of the academic year. By improving the standard of the facilities

the Centre becomes more attractive to students in the local area who can better afford the school fees. Thirdly, we can help set up the business side of Gables. This not only teaches the students all the skills they need to complete their courses but generates products to be sold locally therefore bringing in more funds. This is potentially the best way to guarantee self-sufficiency, and has with some help been very successful in the past but it is hard as with any business, and our help is still badly needed. We are determined to make this project work. How can I help you might ask, and the answer is in a variety of ways. If you wish to donate directly this can be done as a one-off or on a more regular basis using the standing order section, simply complete the gift aid form and return with your donation. However,

you can also help the project by supporting our forthcoming barn dance, or by donating good quality hand tools that can be easily transported out to the Vocational Centre (contact Rod or Ann

Gothard to arrange this). Finally, for those more adventurous supporters a trip to Rukungiri to see the project first hand might be the next step. Staying at Rondavels Hotel, adjacent to Gables Vocational Centre, gives you the perfect base for sight seeing both the local town and further afield. Why not safari at Queen Elizabeth National Game Park, visit the gorillas in Bwindi or many other local attractions. Tourism will also help kick start the local economy.

What's Next?

In Sept of this year Rod and Ann Gothard are once again returning to Rukungiri with the money raised not only from this appeal but all monies raised throughout last year, to help move the Vocational Centre forward. All of the money raised so far in the village has been designated to the project. We have incurred no administration costs and all trips have been funded entirely by the individuals themselves.

Date for your diary – Barn Dance 28th April 7.30pm Winterslow Village Hall

Back by popular demand! We are offering you the opportunity to come together and share an evening of fun and entertainment dancing to “Dancing Ledge” with friends and family whilst supporting the project. See you there.

Make every click count!

Following a recent article in the Times newspaper we have found another way to raise money. By setting Everyclick.com as your internet homepage and selecting Village 2000 FWL (the registered charity name for Project Uganda) you can help raise funds as you search and surf.