

# SEDCU

December 2016

Newsletter 6

Supporting the Education of Disadvantaged Children in Uganda

Welcome to SEDCU Newsletter No.6 covering the period June 2016 – December 2016

As SEDCU completes its third year as a charity we are proud to report continued growth in income, expenditure, number of sponsored children and funding for projects. Our estimate for likely financial results for the year indicate a 20% increase in funds transmitted to Uganda.

## SPONSORSHIP

As the Ugandan school year draws to a close we are pleased to note that all the sponsored children have had a good attendance record this year and we await, with interest, their end of year results and reports. Reports from the previous two terms have been shared with sponsors and the overall picture is positive. For two of the sponsored girls the end of year exam results will determine their futures! At the time of writing SEDCU is supporting 22 children at 7 schools – with a 23rd joining them in the new school year.

## PROFILE



**J** is the 5<sup>th</sup> of 6 children. She is 6 years old and her father died 5 years ago. Her mother, brothers and sister live a few metres away from Mgahinga National Park. The family enjoy all the different bird noises but not the disturbances by buffaloes at night as they raid the community fields! Before her father passed away he was a man full of hope for a sustainable environment. He left a wife who depends on subsistence farming to take care of the family and is critically dependent on sponsorship for **J** to attend Mgahinga Nursery and Primary School. Newly established sponsorship through

SEDCU means that **J** can now start Primary One in January 2017.

## NEWS FROM KISORO DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL (KDS)

### ARTS and CRAFTS PROJECT



In the summer, we heard of the continued success of this project and the appreciation of the second knitting machine donated through SEDCU. As well as enjoying the activity the children are now knitting school sweaters! The Head Teacher wrote: “ Even when children need school sweaters they buy from Joseph’s department”. Joseph is a Teacher of Special Needs responsible for the Arts and Crafts Project.

*The instructor is teaching the children to sew in the sleeves!*

## SCOUTS TRIUMPH AGAIN!

SEDCU funded 12 children with disabilities plus their teachers to participate in the national scouting competitions held at Kaazi camping grounds, near Kampala, in September under the theme “Empowering the scouts for the development of Africa”. Scouts compete every year at different levels starting at district, National level and finally the East African zonal competition. KDS managed to get the **2<sup>nd</sup> position** at district level and went on to achieve **1<sup>st</sup> position** at national level out of 177 competitors which represented 41 districts. What an amazing achievement and another fantastic experience for the children.



## PARALYMPIC SPORTS GALA

This year this competition was held in Busia which is in the far side of the country from Kisoro and near the border with Kenya. SEDCU funded 11 children with disabilities to participate plus teachers and guides for the blind children. They were very proud to inform us that the team triumphed! They returned to Kisoro with medals and a trophy. Kisoro Demonstration School was 1<sup>st</sup> out of 20 teams!. Among the blind boys W won a gold medal and J won a bronze. Among the deaf girls J won a gold medal. Congratulations to all who participated.



*W receives trophy on behalf of KDS*



*Long Jump!*

## JAZZ BAND

In the Newsletter of June 2016 we announced that we are fundraising for instruments to form a Jazz Band for the blind and visually impaired children. We know that it will also be beneficial to the deaf children as, though they will not listen to the music played, the beats and rhythm from the amplifiers & loud speaker will be heard, felt and enjoyed.

Thanks to donations received so far SEDCU has been able to fund the recruitment of a music teacher and a substantial fraction of the instruments and equipment requested by the school. We understand that tuition is underway and we look forward to hearing the results during the SEDCU visit in 2017.



*Unpacking the instruments!*



*Keyboard lessons for blind children*

### **NEWS FROM MGAHINGA COMMUNITY NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL (MCNPS)**

The acting Head Teacher, Kobusingye Annette, is currently completing the first year of her three year Head Teacher training course funded by SEDCU. We are looking forward to her report and reflections once the school year has ended. SEDCU is also funding the salary and accommodation for Niyibizi George, the P7 teacher, who started in February. His task has been to establish the final top class at the school and prepare the children for their Primary Leaving Examination and their potential transition to secondary school. As yet none of the children sponsored through SEDCU here have reached P7 but we await the results with great interest.

### **NEW CLASSROOM BLOCK**

There is steady progress in the construction of the new classroom block which will replace the mud structure potato sheds in which the school was established but which are deemed no longer fit for purpose. Such a project is far from straightforward in this environment as you will read in the following report which we received in October.

*“At the moment, we would have reached further in construction but were limited by climatic changes in our area which lead to prolonged drought which has run from June to mid September! In August, it rained a bit for few hours in two days and gave hope to people in Kisoro but later all came to be in vain!*

*The situation posed limitations in fostering a lot of activities and particularly construction work but all in all, we used more than 20 people to fetch water from a distance of 3kms from the site so as to go ahead with the required work. We have also worked with 1 engineer, 1 assistant engineer who is the site manager, 6 masons and 8 porters all working in collaboration with MCDO\*, MCNPS and the GDF\*\* representatives. On the other hand this has helped the community members to earn some money to buy some food as we have got a serious food shortage resulting to the prolonged drought.*

*We are now happy that it has started raining normally starting with 15th September 2016, which gives us hope for recovering yields from the farms that were perishing.*

*On the other hand, we are now on a right track in as far as construction is concerned as we are in position to finish the walls by December 2016. This means that we need to start thinking about roofing the house. If all go well with our supporters especially in collaboration with SEDCU, we expect the roofing to be made in January/February 2017. We are very excited to see the building coming up and we are very thankful for your great support.*

*Since its commencement, the project has provided work to over 138 local people, performing various duties from engineering to fetching water.”*

\*Mgahinga Community Development Organisation

\*\* Gisozi District Farmers Association

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SEDCU has committed to fund the roof and we are still fundraising. Meanwhile a first instalment is being sent to MCDO this month.

### TEXTBOOKS

SEDCU is continuing to raise funds for text books which are desperately required by MCNPS. We have been experimenting with ways to attract attention at local events. Cake sales in offices are another source of income!



*Ben at a local fundraising event*

**IMPACT OF BREXIT** – At the time of writing the drop in the value of sterling means that we are having to raise 12% extra to deliver the same amount in Ugandan shillings!

### **HOW TO DONATE:**

- **By cheque made out to SEDCU, mailed to  
THE OLD RECTORY, SWINESHEAD, BEDS. MK44 2AA**
- **Or by online transfer to Barclays Bank:-  
Account Name: SEDCU Account no: 83561356 Sort Code 20-74-81**

### **THANK YOU**

**to our sponsors, supporters, fundraisers and all who take an interest in SEDCU. Together we can continue to make our stated mission a reality.**

Email us at [info@sedcu.org.uk](mailto:info@sedcu.org.uk)

Visit us at [www.sedcu.org.uk](http://www.sedcu.org.uk)