

## Welcome to SEDCU Newsletter No.11 covering the period January 2019 – June 2019

For SEDCU, last year was one of hard work, consolidation and also modest growth in our income thanks to the generosity of so many donors.

Financial results and outcomes for 2018 are to be found in our Annual Report which has been published on the SEDCU website.

2019 academic year started well with all pupils reporting at their various schools. For some of them this is an important year with A-Level and O-Level examinations and P7 Leaving Exams as well. This will result in some critical decisions for the young people involved.

### MGAHINGA COMMUNITY JUNIOR SCHOOL

#### Kitchen and Dining Hall

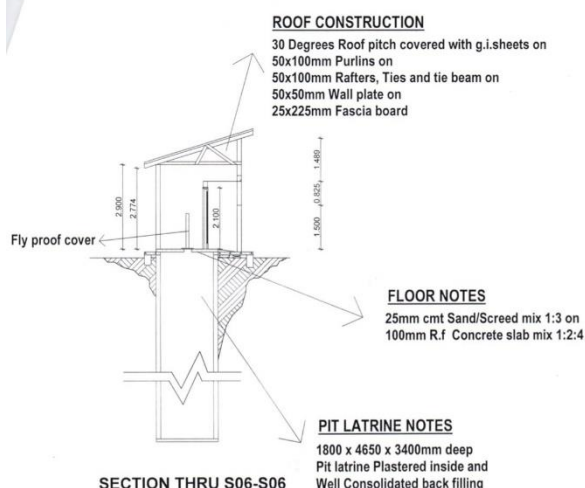
MCJS has continued to rely on a very basic outdoor kitchen to create meals for a rapidly growing number of pupils. Thanks to donations from many supporters SEDCU has been able to fund the foundations and basic structure for a new kitchen and dining hall. The photos show the progress to date.



Fundraising is ongoing to pay for the roof and fixtures and fittings and we are pleased to note that parents and community members have agreed to make a significant contribution.

#### Sanitation Block

With the steady increase in the number of pupils and staff the Governors of MSJS are acutely aware of the limited sanitation arrangements currently in place. The school is set in a very rural and remote area with no mains water or power. Consequently, they have taken the decision to construct a new "pitlatrine" and have sought SEDCU's financial support in this venture. It will have separate facilities for male and female and for children and staff. The cost is estimated at £3,000. Architects drawings have been prepared and detailed costings shared with us.



## Rotary Club Fundraising Concert



At the beginning of June Welshpool and District Rotary Club organised an "An Evening of Summer Music" with the Guilsfield Singers.

Despite the inclement weather the Welshpool Methodist Church was almost full and the audience was treated to a varied programmed of an exceptionally high standard. Jan and Ben attended and spoke at the event and a positive start was made to the fundraising for the MCJS Sanitary Block.

## KISORO DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL Funding a Degree in Special Needs Education

In our last Newsletter we reported that SEDCU had agreed to support Mugabe Joseph, Head of Special Needs at KDS to undertake an In-Service course which would lead to a Bachelor Degree in Special Needs education. He has now started his second year and has sent us this photo and the following message:

***"Greetings from Joseph, I would like to extend great appreciation to SEDCU board of trustees for the support they have rendered to me while pursuing my bachelor's degree in Special Needs Education at Kampala International University and I will continue serving children with special needs at Kisoro Demo more especially in Braille work."***



## CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to E who has graduated from St. Bruno's Vocational College. She was one of the first sponsored children to have progressed through KDS where she learnt her initial knitting and sewing skills. She has now achieved a significant qualification which could provide the foundations for a career. At present she has returned to KDS where she is applying her skills and is being assessed to decide her future direction.

## Trustee Kate's Triathlon



SEDCU Trustee Kate Coulson and her husband, Lee, ran the London Marathon for SEDCU in 2017 to raise funds for a water tank in Mgahinga. Now Kate is going to take on her biggest physical and mental challenge yet: A middle distance 70.3 mile Triathlon, the Cotswold Classic 113 on 4th Aug 2019.

**This comprises a 1.2 mile open water swim, 56 mile bike ride, and 13.1 mile run. All together. On the same day. In Lycra.**

She is doing this challenge to support SEDCU's new Bursary fund which we featured in the Newsletter of December 2018 (available on the SEDCU website)

SEDCU is hoping that its supporters will back Kate in this challenge thus encouraging her every stroke, pedal and step of the way. Some of the Trustees will be there to cheer her on.....**GO KATE!**

Please donate on her page on <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/katecoulson70-3> under SEDCU or Kate Coulson.

### New Sponsorships



C is 13 and the youngest of four siblings. They lost their father when C was still a baby and their mother passed away about three years ago. At the time when mother passed away, the second born was in high school and took the responsibility of taking care of the two younger siblings hence dropping out of school. He is now 24 years old and works away from home, so C and her brother often have to be cared for by relatives and other well-wishers.

C was attending a government aided school but she often went hungry. She was brought to the attention of SEDCU through Mgahinga Community and joined P6 in MCJS where she boards at school and all her basic needs are met.

**We informed the community that C had been sponsored and they wrote "Your assistance is a real rescue to C, the family and community at large. Thank you."**

S is the fourth of six siblings. This family has multiple challenges which has left them with no hope for the future, unless they are supported by well wishers.

The family lost their land during the creation of Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, a situation which led his father to go hunting in the forest. Some years ago, he was attacked at his home and in the ensuing fight he lost his right hand. This meant that he could no longer work to support his family. Tragically, in 2018, the worst happened when he entered the park to harvest some bamboos and was accidentally shot dead by national park staff.

S was then in P.6 with no hope of continuing at school as the family have very limited means to survive. Sponsorship through SEDCU is offering S the chance to overcome these tragic events and give him and the family hope for the future.



## LOOKING FORWARD

As we reach the midpoint of the Ugandan school year the Trustees have been considering the outlook for the rest of 2019 and preparations for 2020. We hope to be able to continue supporting the attendance of disabled children from KDS at the National Scouting Jamboree and Paralympic Sports events. The Arts and Crafts project has proved so successful that it must and will remain a priority.

At MCJS we will be following with interest the progress of their current and planned construction projects and it may be possible for us to provide further financial assistance here in due course. This also applies to the solar power project where additional panels are to be placed on the classroom block roof.

Seven of our sponsored children will be facing key decisions about their futures which will be dependent on their performance in upcoming exams. We wish them all well. Success may bring challenges for them as they take decisions and, for some, as they settle into new environments. For their sponsors and for SEDCU the challenge may be one of finance since Secondary, Vocational and Tertiary Education is more costly. This is why the Trustees were keen to establish a Bursary Fund which can be available to top up sponsorship payments where necessary and provide books, computers and scholastic materials. Some of the money raised this year will be transferred to the new Fund.

## SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding continues to be an important issue and we wish to reassure all our supporters that this continues to be a priority and we continue to draw this to the attention of our colleagues in Uganda.

### *SEDCU Website*

***SEDCU has launched it's new website with a fresh look, updated information about SEDCU and details on how you can help. Please visit [www.sedcu.org.uk](http://www.sedcu.org.uk) for more details.***

### *SEDCU Just Giving Page*

**Due to the recent closure of *My Donate*, SEDCU has registered with *Just Giving* to provide an easy and simple way to donate and fundraise. To find out more about you can help please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/sedcu>**

**Thank you to our sponsors, donors, supporters and all who take an interest in SEDCU.**

**Together we can continue to make our stated mission a reality. If you wish to donate you can do so through the website or by cheque made out to SEDCU and mailed to Lowstead, Highford Lane, Hexham NE46 2DP. Or you can pay online into the SEDCU account, sort code 20-74-81, account number 83561356.**

**Email us at [info@sedcu.org.uk](mailto:info@sedcu.org.uk) Visit us at [www.sedcu.org.uk](http://www.sedcu.org.uk)**