

SEDCU

July 2015

Supporting the Education of Disadvantaged Children in Uganda

Newsletter 3

This is SEDCU's third Newsletter covering the period Jan – June 2015

HEADLINES

During the first six months of 2015 SEDCU raised £4,260.00 and recovered £1,010.00 in Gift Aid from HMRC giving a total of £5,270.00. The total amount sent to Uganda by SEDCU in the same period was £5,830.00, broken down into £4,275.00 for sponsorship and £1,405.00 for projects plus £150.00 bank charges.

The Trustees are pleased to report that SEDCU has now been registered as a charity by the Charity Commission. Our Registration Number is 1161405.

SPONSORSHIP

The number of children sponsored by SEDCU has risen from 10 to 14 over the last six months. While we continue to focus on Kisoro Demonstration School (KDS) and Mgahinga Nursery and Primary School (MNPS), inevitably as the children grow older and pass their exams, some will transfer to secondary schools. As a consequence we need to develop relationships with these schools in order to monitor the children's progress and ensure they are realising their potential.

SEDCU is sponsoring six children at MNPS, and through the Mgahinga Community Development Organisation we are sponsoring **MP** at St. Gertrude Girls Secondary School.



At the end of her primary education, MP was among the few in the whole village who scored 1st grade and despite being born into poverty, she has strong dreams for the future. She was walking 8 km to and from the Secondary School she was attending, staying throughout the day with no lunch. Sometimes she was overwhelmed by the long walks especially during heavy rain and she was very worried that this would interfere with her good performance. She had been recommended to study in a boarding school but that would only be possible if she was given the chance of support through sponsorship. Her ambition is to become a lawyer! Happily, thanks to sponsorship through SEDCU, MP is now boarding at the school of her choice and her dreams - and that of her parents – are being realised.

The following three children have recently become sponsored at MNPS

O

O was born in June 2011. His father's education was sponsored through the Mgahinga Development Organisation. His father was tragically killed in a motorbike accident two months before O was born. His mother struggled to cope and when he was about a year old she took him to his parental grandparents where he has been living.

A family is now sponsoring O through SEDCU. He was a sad little boy but his morale and outlook have been greatly boosted by going to MPNS and mixing with other children.

M

SEDCU is delighted to have found a family to sponsor M. He started MNPS in 2015 and boards during term time guaranteeing him proper meals and a settled routine. He has started in Primary 1. We eagerly await news of how he has settled. M loves music and dancing!

M was born in 2007 and is the 3rd of 5 children. His family are 'Batwa' (Pygmy people and forest dwellers). When the Government designated the forest a National Park M's family were evicted and left with no compensation. They do not own a house nor any land but live in a small hut which is not properly thatched leaving it open to the elements.

P

P is the youngest of 6 children. She was born in 2007. Her father left home because he couldn't care for his family and now they only hear from him infrequently which distresses them. P's mother struggled to care for them but she died last year.

To the great relief of her family P is now being sponsored by a family through SEDCU. She started boarding at M N P S this year. We understand she loves music and is good at skipping with a rope! She says she hopes to be a teacher one day! We are looking forward to hearing how P progresses.

SEDCU is sponsoring five children at KDS. In addition one child is continuing his studies at Hornby High School and another has passed her O-levels and is now attending St Mary's High School. The following profile is of the latest child to be sponsored through SEDCU

J

J is the 4th child of eight brothers and sisters. He and his younger brother were born blind and there is no established cause for their condition. His family have struggled to cope with caring for 2 blind children and needed support for J's education.

As of February 2015 J has a sponsor who is committed to supporting him through his school years at KDS.

Congratulations to S whose O-level results mean she is able to continue with her studies at St Mary's High School. The Trustees of SEDCU were delighted to receive this poem from her.

*Because I think you are worthy of praise,
I feel I should give to you all the merit.
You are someone good
An Organisation of endless love
Because you saw me stray away, you decided to take me up
Not only have you taken me through this life am in, but also
preparing me for the life to come.
The arrows of peaceful relations I will be equipped me with are
what I will live to practice.
The amour of God's friendship with me is enough to keep moving
till my death
The fact of the responsibility I have for all my actions is what
confines me doing what I can contain.
And when I think of what I will be after following my teacher's
guidance, I feel happy to abide by them. I will always make sure
that you shine by not letting you down.
But when I remember those on whose doors you have not
knocked. I silently mourn, for I know what treasure they have
missed
Credit goes to the founder and in all to the
Almighty God for enabling you influence me the way you have
done.*



FUNDRAISING

As news of SEDCU and its modest achievements has spread, more people have generously offered their time to raise funds for the charity, so further publicising what we stand for.

An Information Evening was held in Swineshead Village Hall in March which generated both interest and income.



In June the Braga Family held a concert in All Hallows Church, Upper Dean which was very well attended and they are kindly donating all the proceeds to SEDCU.

Through word of mouth new sponsors have been found and other small fundraising ventures have made a very useful contribution.

PROJECTS

We have continued to support the Arts and Crafts Project and the Poultry Project at KDS.



Parents General Meeting held on 5th June 2015 at KDS.

This included a chance for parents to see the results of the SEDCU Arts and Crafts Project and understand the importance of their children acquiring such skills.



A teacher setting out some of the completed articles made by the children.



Happy hens!!! These are all local breeds

Following the Paralympics experience the Head Teacher expressed regret that he had no way to show the children how they had performed or to show the rest of the school what had been achieved. As a result he requested that SEDCU fund the purchase of a Camcorder for future use and this was delivered to them by hand due to collaboration with Sustain for Life.

50% of the collection taken at the Carol Service held in Swineshead Church on Christmas Eve was donated to SEDCU. As a result we have been able to purchase a reconditioned Braille machine for the use of the blind children at KDS.

Thanks to a further substantial donation from Welshpool and District Rotary Club the solar powered computer project at MNPS was completed.



We also gratefully acknowledge the donation of three laptops. A very large quantity of knitting wools and needles were generously donated by the Well Pharmacy in Irchester. We have also been given a quantity of children's T-shirts. All of these things will travel to Kisoro in October 2015



BREAKING NEWS!!!

KDS special needs children recently won a trophy at the District Level Scouting Competition. Some will go on to compete at the National Level Competition in Entebbe from 18th – 25th August. Four of the children sponsored by SEDCU have been selected to participate. We see this as a wonderful opportunity and will be supporting the special needs team financially.

E was the first girl to be sponsored by SEDCU. She is profoundly deaf, doing well and is extremely active in the Arts and Craft Project at KDS. We were very moved to receive this thought provoking poem from her.

I AM PROUD I WAS BORN A GIRL

Girls do many activities at home
 They help parents in all house work chores
 All things are good when girls are
 obedient, tolerant and kind
 All goes well when they are educated
 I am proud I am a girl
 It is my right to be protected
 It is my right to be educated
 It is my right to be sheltered
 It is my right to be fed
 It will be my right to choose a partner for
 marriage and decide on the number of
 children to produce.
 It is my right to know how my body works
 It is my right to say no to sex
 However, without Jan& Ben all the above
 rights zeroed to nothing.
 Oh, I am proud of being a girl.



LOOKING AHEAD

SEDCU's prime objective is to fund the education of disadvantaged children. To this end we will continue to look for sponsors who are in tune with our mission. The schools have identified a number of very needy children who would benefit hugely from sponsorship. If you would be interested in helping in any way please contact us.

SEDCU continues to raise funds for priority projects identified by the schools. July promises to be a busy month with a fundraising BBQ in Cumbria and fundraising days at the Disclosure and Barring Service sites in Liverpool and Darlington.

Small rural schools, such as MPNS, struggle to attract and fund fully qualified staff. The current acting Head Teacher would very much like to study for the appropriate qualification and if her costs were covered would do this in school holidays and her free time. She has written to SEDCU and Jan and Ben recall meeting her in 2013. If she is successful in gaining our financial support she has committed to undertake the three year course and then stay at the school for at least a further two years. The SEDCU trustees feel she is setting a fine example and that this would generate stability at the school for the next five years. We will, therefore, be fundraising to support her.

Welshpool and District Rotary Club has a display at the Eisteddfod in July. They are kindly promoting SEDCU through a variety of posters

**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.**