

SEDCU

July 2016

Newsletter 5

Supporting the Education of Disadvantaged Children in Uganda

Welcome to SEDCU Newsletter No.5 covering the period January 2016 – June 2016

HEADLINES

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and donors the funds transmitted to Uganda by SEDCU in 2015 were more than double the amount for the previous year. The number of children sponsored through SEDCU has risen to 22 – thanks to the commitment of five new sponsors during the first six months of this year.

SPONSORSHIP

The start of the new school year in February was slightly delayed by the Presidential elections which dominated everyday life for some weeks. In Kisoro district 22 children packed their belongings, put on their new uniforms, rolled up their mattresses and prepared for the new school year. When SEDCU began the children were all at Nursery or Primary School. As they have grown up and passed exams 5 children have progressed to Secondary Schools. Our readers are always interested in the profiles of the sponsored children. Here are some of the most recent!

A, pictured to the right was born blind. She is now 15 and keen on Social Studies, English, Science and Maths and is attending Hornby High School.



D is 9 years old and lives in a very poor community with her mother and grandmother. D is self-confident, loves singing and skipping and hopes to become a nurse! She has been sponsored for some time but only recently through SEDCU

A is a bright spark! She is 5 years old and still in Nursery but excelling at everything! She comes from a very difficult domestic background. She loves Maths and anything to do with numbers and says one day she will be a teacher!



B is 10 this year. His father died and his mother was unable to cope so left him, and his sister, with their grandmother who struggled to care for them. B is now benefitting from boarding at school. His Favourite subject is Maths but his great love is football!



T is 7 years old and was born blind in a family already struggling to cope. He is the 6th of 8 children and has a blind elder brother also sponsored through SEDCU. **J** has just started in Primary 1 at KDS where he is already proving hard working and keen to learn.



J is about 11 and the youngest of 9. She is deaf as are 3 of her siblings. Sadly, her mother died and after remarrying her father has neglected his children. **J** is very hard working and an excellent athlete.

SCOUTING SUCCESS

During 2015 KDS won at District and National Scouting Competitions and successfully defended its title at the East African Scout Jamboree near Nairobi. SEDCU is proud to have helped make this happen.



The Head Teacher of KDS wrote: “Appreciation goes to all well-wishers who contributed towards the success of this dream for such double vulnerable children. Most thanks in the 1st place go to SEDCU who helped us go through the National Competitions.”

**ARTS and CRAFTS PROJECT**

The Arts and Crafts Project continues to flourish. Recent donations have enabled SEDCU to fund an Instructor, a second knitting machine and the materials sought by the school for this academic year. Some materials have kindly been donated in the UK.

**NEWS FROM MCNPS****P7 CLASS ESTABLISHED**

To achieve its long standing ambition to provide the pupils at MNPS with a complete primary education, the school needed to add a final top class (P7) recruit a suitably qualified teacher. SEDCU agreed to underwrite these costs for three year and donations have been received to cover the first year. We are delighted that donations have been received to cover the first year. Mr George Niyibizi took up his appointment at the start of the school year in February. In a recent letter he wrote: *“My first term here has been so rewarding, children’s performance is very promising and we hope to perform well at the end of the year which will, as well, contribute to the community awareness towards this particular school hence sending more children here which will lead to its sustainability.”*

HEAD TEACHER TRAINING

The Acting Head Teacher Kobusingye Annette does not have the formal qualifications appropriate to this position, she has committed to pursue a three year training course each school holiday funded by SEDCU. Happily, funds have been received for two of the three years which meant that Annette could start in January 2016. Annette wrote of her positive experiences so far and said:

“I have so far made new friends taking same course as mine and there were other women who have young babies like me. We are very happy to see women in Uganda getting empowered than ever before. For the past years it would have been impossible for a woman like me with a young child, leaving another child with husband, and then going to college.”

TEXT BOOKS

We all take it for granted that schools would have a good supply of text books which are fundamental to providing a good learning experience. At MNPS it has been difficult to fund an adequate number and variety of text books. Thanks to donations by SEDCU and others they have obtained some but others are needed as the school continues to grow.



SOLAR POWER

We are delighted to report that the Water Tank purchased by SEDCU, through the generosity of donors, has now been installed and is proving invaluable both to the school and to the community. A second water tank will be needed before too long.

We are equally delighted that a second solar powered installation has been completed in order to provide power for the boarding quarters. Until now the children have depended on kerosene lamps (with all their attendant risks) so this has made a massive impact on their daily lives.

WATER TANK

FUNDRAISING APPEAL

As SEDCU matures, and as we become more aware of the wide and growing needs of the children, so the financial demands continue to rise. We could cap our activities but are reluctant to do so given how much has already been achieved to enrich the lives of the children we support and their schools and communities. The SEDCU Trustees have made the commitment to continue raising funds for new projects and are inviting our supporters to join us. This could either be on a personal level, or through spreading the message to others, or by holding fundraising events such as coffee mornings, barbeques, office cake days, sponsored walks and runs etc.

Two projects stand out as potentially having the greatest impact - but for quite different reasons - and form the basis of this appeal.

KDS JAZZ BAND

Recognising that there are still relatively few activities outside school hours that are suitable for the blind and visually impaired children, and knowing the potential importance of music in their lives, SEDCU had already decided to fund something in this field. Dialogue with the Head Teacher resulted in the exciting proposal to form a Jazz Band to stimulate the musical talents of these children. This will improve their cognitive, social and psychological capabilities as well as providing them with enjoyment and entertainment. *In SEDCU terms this is an ambitious and expensive project! In total purchase of instruments and equipment will cost £3,400 and the Music Teacher will cost £300 per year. Thanks to various donations already received the school has been able to start ordering instruments BUT £1200 is still needed to complete the ensemble.....*

MNPS ROOF

MNPS is building a new classroom block - to replace the mud structure potato storage sheds in which the school was established and which are still in use but which are no longer fit for purpose! The Trustees of SEDCU have been highly impressed by the energy and commitment of the community and the school in driving this project forward. *We have, therefore, committed to join with others to support this project and, in principle, would like to respond to their specific request that we fund the roof. The estimated cost is £1,800 and our fundraising starts now.....*



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 Visit us at www.sedcu.org.uk