

SEDCU

June 2017

Newsletter 7

Supporting the Education of Disadvantaged Children in Uganda

Welcome to SEDCU Newsletter No.7 covering the period January – June 2017

2016 was a very busy and successful year for SEDCU in many ways. Total donations received were £15,097, an increase of 38% compared to 2015. The total amount sent to Uganda was 52% higher at £14,135. The number of children sponsored through SEDCU has now risen to 25.

SPONSORSHIP

All the sponsored children continue to attend school. We are satisfied that they are being given the opportunity to learn, develop and to benefit from good standards of care and education. Their reports show a spread of achievements reflecting their different abilities and emerging capabilities. The children now attend a total of 6 schools. As explained below, two have left school, one to attend Vocational College and the other to attend Medical School.

NEWLY SPONSORED CHILDREN



MU is a 14 year old girl whose parents have very limited income. Her father has been ill over a long period so she was sent to live with extended family in Kampala. She had to return to Mgahinga and is now very grateful to her sponsor and SEDCU for giving her the opportunity to continue her studies.



AK is almost 13. Due to an accident her father is unable to work and the family were concerned that A would have to leave school. They are all grateful that she has the opportunity to continue her education thanks to her SEDCU sponsor.



The baby of the SEDCU family is not yet 4! **AB's** family have fallen on very hard times due to being the victims of a robbery in Kampala. His older brother is also seriously ill. The payment for treatment has had a devastating effect on the family finances. A lives very close to the school so can be a day boy and benefit from regular meals and social contact.

June 2017



CLIMBING THE LADDER...

Newsletter 7

We are delighted to report that two of our sponsored children have successfully made the transition into higher education.

E is profoundly deaf and has completed her Primary Leaving Exams. She has gained admission into a Vocational College to study for a Diploma in Knitting and Tailoring building on skills she acquired through the SEDCU funded Arts and Crafts Project at Kisoro Demonstration School (KDS). Three other deaf children were also accepted by the College on the strength of their skills acquired through the Arts and Crafts Project.

S, who suffers from dwarfism, has taken her Secondary School Leaving Exams and has been successful in gaining entry to a Medical School where she will undertake a 2 year course leading to a qualification as a Medical Technician. On achieving this she should be self-sufficient.

SEDCU is proud to continue supporting both of these young people - two success stories in the making!

NEWS FROM KISORO DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL

At the end of the school year in December 2016, Nkurikiyima Gerald relinquished his role as Head Teacher of KDS in order to take up the position of Inspector of Schools for the district. Despite his promotion, Gerald has continued to act as a local advocate for SEDCU and supporter of the children leaving KDS. We are deeply grateful to Gerald for all his hard work and dedication. We are also happy to welcome Habiyaremye Stephen as the new Head Teacher at KDS. Stephen was in charge of the deaf section at KDS from 2011 – 2014, gained promotion to Head Teacher at another school and has now returned to KDS. He recalled meeting Ben and Jan on their first visit to the school in 2011.



The new Head teacher unpacking materials for the start of the school year

THE ARTS AND CRAFTS PROJECT

Joseph, the teacher in charge of the project, has provided a report on its achievements during 2016. This project is now in its 4th year and going from strength to strength. Arts and Crafts has now been absorbed in to the curriculum for the school as a whole with support from parents! Materials donated by SEDCU have been used to make school bags which have replaced plastic bags throughout the school and parents have purchased these for shopping! Production of school sweaters continues as does crochet work. SEDCU is continuing to fund an instructor and materials for embroidery, basket making and knitting.



SEDCU has funded purchase of a number of instruments for the establishment of the KDS Jazz Band and an Instructor has been employed, primarily to work with the blind and visually impaired children.

NEWS FROM MGAHINGA COMMUNITY NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

2016 was the first year of the new “top class” P7 at MCNPS and for Niyibizi George their teacher who is funded by SEDCU. We were absolutely delighted to hear from George that all 6 pupils in the class got good results in the Primary Leaving Exams which has enabled them all to progress to Secondary School. This year the class has grown to 13 pupils and they are hoping to be able to move into the new classroom block later in the year.

The Acting Head Teacher, Kobusingye Annette, has completed the first year of her three year in-service training course supported by SEDCU. She started her second year in April during which she will undertake a research project and supervised practice in a government school. She written to SEDCU to say how much she appreciates our support and how much she is enjoying the course.

TEXT BOOKS AND CUPBOARD

Thanks to the generosity of a number of donors SEDCU was able to make a second substantial donation for text books and a book cupboard. We received the following message:

“The aim of this communication is therefore to express our heartfelt gratitude towards your support in various ways including the previous funding that has enabled us purchase of 65 major text books and one cupboard meant to safeguard the school library. We managed to carry out that project in February 2017 at a total cost of UGX 1,977,000. We very much hope for absolute academic performance as a result of having these equipments in place.”

NEW CLASSROOM BLOCK

We have been pleased to receive regular progress reports on the construction of the new classroom block which will replace the mud structure potato sheds in which the school was established.

SEDCU has committed to finance the roof of this building which is estimated to cost about £2,800. Thanks to numerous donations we have so far been able to send 71% of the total.

June 2017

Newsletter 7



Some of the funds for the roof were raised at an event at the Legal Ombudsman in Birmingham. The cakes were a sell out!

The photograph to the right shows that the rafters are now in place ready for the corrugated iron sheeting to be attached.



WATER TANK



The staff, children and Mgahinga community have to rely on rainwater collected by guttering from rooves. As the school is growing they are in desperate need of a new larger water tank to provide safe water for drinking, cooking and sanitation. SEDCU agreed to raise funds for a 10,000 litre tank and for its installation linked to the roof of the new classroom block.

SEDCU supporters Kate and Lee Coulson ran the London Marathon in April to raise funds for this project.



SEDCU is deeply grateful for their amazing achievement.

We have received yet another very substantial donation from Welshpool and District Rotary Club which is also destined for this project. Together these two donations exceed the total required for the tank and we are in dialogue with MCDO about other associated projects including installation of a solar panel on the roof of the new classroom block.

HOW TO DONATE:

• By cheque made out to SEDCU, mailed to
LOWSTEAD, HIGHFORD LANE, HEXHAM, NORTHUMBERLAND NE46 2DP
(Please note change of address)

• 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