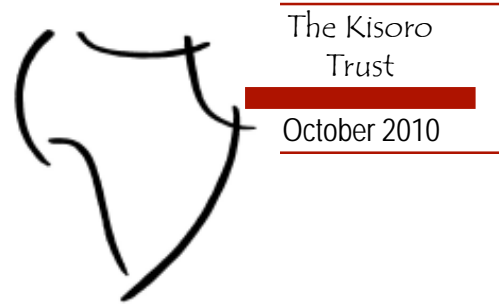


Kisoro Newsletter



The Kisoro Trust

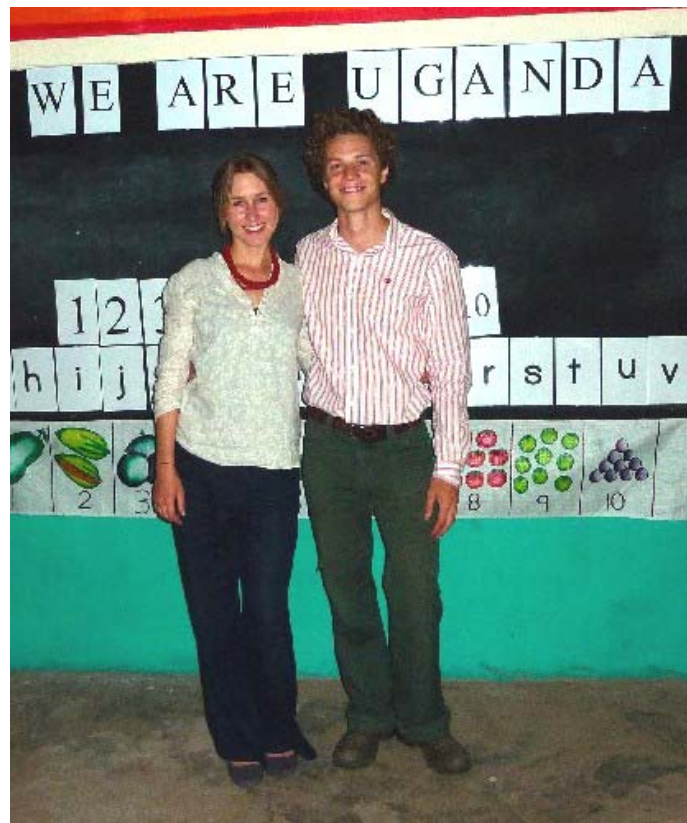
October 2010

Ugandan Diary – The story of the last four months in Kisoro from VSO Volunteer Poppy Krivine

June 2010

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Poppy Krivine and I am the new VSO volunteer working with PET Uganda. I arrived in Kisoro at the beginning of March, and have had a whirlwind start to my 12 month placement.

I am out here with my husband James and second VSO colleague Carmel Bradwell. I am a sign language interpreter and community support worker from Bristol and Carmel is a retired principal of a special needs school near Dublin. Since arriving here, Carmel has been focused mainly on developing a resource room at the primary school, and I have been leading a project to improve the accommodation for the primary age Deaf boys and girls in Kisoro, as well as working with the Deaf secondary school students as a stand-in interpreter.



Poppy and James Krivine

Our first 3 months of work has been fantastic. It has been such a pleasure working with these children - truly a life changing experience.

July 2010

Since March, the VSO volunteers have been busy working on various projects to improve the living and learning conditions for the special needs students. One project focused on cleaning up the girls' and boys' dormitories and commissioning new bunk beds and mattress so that the pupils would no longer have to share sleeping spaces on the floor.



Preparing the bunks

We painted, put in new door handles and locks, and hung curtains. The children helped us clean as we dusted the many, many cobwebs, and we made new bunks so that everyone would have their own place to sleep. At the end of it all the boys had 24 lovely beds, with new mattresses and sheets, and clean walls. The girls had a clean, safe dorm, with new beds, doors they could lock at night, and curtains that they could close when they were dressing. And this made them very happy.

We have since started regular training sessions with the house parents, working within the areas of care, hygiene, safety and communication, to ensure that the accommodation building remains a clean, safe environment for the Deaf children.



Happy children outside the refurbished accommodation

August 2010

Carmel's 6 month placement came to an end last week, but fortunately we have a new VSO volunteer, Chantal, who has just arrived from Holland. Chantal's role will be to teach teachers how to support children with special needs - I'm sure she will do a great job.

The primary students were collected by their parents or older siblings for the holidays, and it was very uplifting for me to see all their smiling faces. In the next few weeks I hope to have time to start firming up my programme for next term.

September 2010

I have had a successful fundraising trip to Kampala, and here in Kisoro I have linked up with one of the local hospitals who have agreed to send some nurses to the school to conduct basic first aid training for the house parents, as well as some health awareness work with the students themselves. The children are now back from their holidays, and we're all looking forward enthusiastically to the new term ahead.

Fundraising News



In the last few months, children in Scotland have been doing a fantastic job of raising funds to support the Deaf children of Kisoro. Rebecca Humble (9) went round the classes at her primary school, asking her fellow pupils to 'Guess the number of Easter Eggs in the jar'. She raised £115.50 from her competition, and the school increased this to over £200 by adding in half the proceeds of the collection at their end of term service. A big thank you to Rebecca and everyone at Newhill Primary School, Blairgowrie.

The pupils of Craigentiny Primary School in Edinburgh have established a link with Kisoro, and made a DVD of school life to send out to Uganda. They also held a Uganda Day in April, when they took part in African drumming workshops, learnt some sign

language, and enjoyed visits from people who have worked in Uganda, or who are friends of the Kisoro school. The day finished with a family 'Gorilla Drive' (a beetle drive with a Ugandan twist) for both pupils and parents. This was great fun, and raised £110 for Kisoro.

Major Milestone

February 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Kisoro school for Deaf children – a cause for celebration! A project that started with 15 children back in 2001 has expanded to cater for 7 primary classes, which are now incorporated within the inclusive Kisoro Demonstration School. The school has also become more self-reliant in recent years, thanks to the poultry project and other initiatives. But one thing remains unchanged – thanks to all our donors, the children continue to benefit from a level of care, education and access to communication that they would never otherwise have known.

We are planning a fundraising event to mark this special anniversary some time in 2011 – watch this space for further details. And if any of our supporters would like to organise an event on our behalf, please let us know and we'll be happy to supply posters/fliers etc if required. We look forward to hearing from you!

To Make a Donation

I would like to make a donation to the Kisoro Trust. I enclose a cheque for £.....

Please send me a standing order form.

Name:

Address:

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Tel:

Email:

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can increase the value of your gift by nearly a third, at no extra cost to yourself, by completing the Gift Aid Declaration below:

Please treat as Gift Aid Donations all donations made by me to the Kisoro Trust from 6th April 2001. I understand that I must pay sufficient tax each year to cover the amount to be reclaimed.

Signed:.....

The Kisoro Trust

Recognised Scottish Charity No. SC 029384

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