

Kisoro Newsletter



Greetings from Kisoro

"We want to thank all those who have joined us as partners in development, and for coming together with us to provide quality education and services for the deaf children in the Diocese of Muhabura/Kisoro District. At one time, such a prospect of quality education and services for deaf children in Kisoro District was a dream. Today this dream has been actualized into reality!"

Rev Ephraim Mbabazi
Director, Planning & Development, Muhabura Diocese



The Kisoro Trust is helping to give deaf children in Uganda far more than just an academic education:

All pupils at the school take part in athletics, and at the start of the season Habiyaemye Milton, one of the deaf children, was chosen to be sports prefect for the whole school. He took part in the prefects election campaign with the help of an interpreter and won the majority vote. He then represented Seseme Primary School at district level in track events, and finished 10th out of 40 participants. The children also play volleyball, and compete with their hearing colleagues, occasionally beating them.

As well as sports, the children take part in music, dance and drama. They have put on performances for surrounding communities, which helps make people aware that they are equally capable of taking part in such activities as hearing children.

The pupils also attend church services at St Andrews Cathedral, Seseme. Recently a teacher from the deaf class has been accompanying the children and interpreting the service into Ugandan Sign Language for them.

Welcome to Joel Runnels, Development Worker with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)

We are delighted that Joel Runnels was able to join the project earlier this year.

My name is Joel Runnels. I am a teacher for the deaf by training and profession. As an American who has done development work with deaf education, I have teaching experience from both the developed as well as the developing world. My mission here is to facilitate the development of this project through teaching of the deaf pupils; training of parents, teachers and support staff of the deaf pupils; writing of research, reports and funding proposals; administrative support and managerial support.

Joel helped to facilitate a week-long Ugandan Sign Language workshop earlier in the summer, for the boarding unit support staff as well as teachers from Seseme Primary School. Feedback from participants was very positive, and it is hoped that more such workshops will be held in the near future.

Pictured here is Pamela Nizeyimana, a member of the teaching staff in the Deaf Unit at Seseme Primary School. Pamela is also Chairperson of the Kisoro Cooperative Society of People with Disabilities. She holds a Diploma in Special Needs Education, and hopes to go on to gain a degree. She is currently on a course in Denmark, but will be returning to Uganda next month.



Fundraising News

Sponsored Walk - The Aonach Eagach Ridge, Glencoe, August 2002



All week the forecasts had been terrible, and at least once including the words "storms" "torrential" and "rain". However, we set off on Friday evening hoping for a soaking at the very least. To our surprise, the Radio Scotland weather forecast was improving by the hour on the road north, and when we finally heard the mountain forecast at around 7.00 o'clock, it even mentioned sunny intervals! We stopped for fish & chips in Callander and reached Glencoe as the light was fading. It was a pleasant warm evening with no wind. Ideal midge weather, I thought. Unfortunately I was right. They swarmed in huge clouds around our heads as we quickly pitched the tents and headed at a rapid pace for the shelter of the Clachaig Inn.

We looked out in the morning to clear blue skies and more midges. I cooked breakfast from the safety of the tent while the other two braved the clouds of bloodsucking creatures buzzing around. We didn't hang about to look at the stunning scenery around us but quickly packed up and headed for the start of our walk. Parking at the popular car-park near the head of Glencoe, just as the first busloads of tourists were arriving, we headed up the hillside. It took us a little longer to attain the ridge than we had expected, but we reached it eventually and caught our breaths before starting the difficult bit. The first top was easy enough but lying to the south of the ridge is a feature called The Chancellor, with a sharp ridge out to its narrow summit. Reuben couldn't resist the temptation and we waited behind to take the photos.



The climb along the ridge was more challenging than I remembered, but it could have been because we seemed to take the most difficult route at every opportunity! It was usually as we got

to the most tricky move on top of one of The Pinnacles that we noticed the path along the side, but I guess we had to earn our sponsor money! We chose our photos carefully, to find the most dramatic pose. The day turned out to be tiring but enjoyable and the fantastic weather contributed to the experience, with views out to the Atlantic. The cloud even briefly lifted off Ben Nevis for an hour or so. However the warm weather and lack of wind meant that the midges even followed us onto the hill and we had to eat lunch on the move to avoid being eaten ourselves, something I've only ever experienced once before on the top of a Munro.

We were tired as we began our descent. The zig-zag path I remember from years ago had gone under the thousands of feet trekking down the hillside and was now a loose and unstable scree gulley. Being able to see the pub all the way down didn't help, but we persevered and stopped for a quick drink before the journey home.

Our efforts raised over £350 for Kisoro, and it's not too late to make a contribution. Please send in your cheques to the address below and let us know if you would like to join us should we do another walk next year.

The Kisoro Ceilidh II

Our next fundraising ceilidh is planned for Friday 14th February 2002, in the Thomas Morton Hall, Leith, with the Sandy Brechin Band once again. Further details will soon be available on our website www.kisoro.org

Thank You ...

To all our friends and supporters. Recent donors to the Kisoro Trust include:
Hon Alex Ndeezi, Ugandan MP for People with Disabilities
Bishop Ernest Shalita, Bishop of Muhabura

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:

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Kisoro School for Deaf Children

The Kisoro Trust - Recognised Scottish Charity No. SC 029384

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