

The Kisoro Trust

Newsletter 2016



Another successful year has passed at the Deaf Unit of Kisoro Demonstration School.



Not only have the children thrived under the new leadership of Kisoro District Association of the Deaf (KDAD) but, thanks to your continued support, the quality and variety of food provided to the children has greatly improved this year. From the previous vitamin-deficient diet of just maize flour with beans - three times a day, every day - the children are now benefitting from a healthier variety of foods including rice, posho (maize pudding), matooke, potatoes, sweet potatoes, ground peanuts, cabbage, eggplant, spinach, beetroot, green pepper, onion, tomatoes and even occasionally meat.

Every last penny of support received by the Kisoro Trust goes directly to the project in Uganda. This includes caring for all the essential needs of the 41 girls and boys currently enrolled in the program, as well as paying local wages to the two deaf managers and three support staff, a vital role in a community where employment opportunities for deaf people are otherwise non-existent.

Students win East African scouting competition

We are extremely proud to announce that 17 students from Kisoro Demonstration School - nine boys and girls from the Deaf Unit as well as eight other blind and physically disabled students - have won first place in the East African scouting competition. The contest, held in Kenya, tested the contenders in both classroom based knowledge as well as practical skills.

Activities included construction skills, swimming and kayaking, drama performances, community service, knowledge of nature and positive attitude. It was an enormous achievement for those involved: "I have managed to go out of the country as a scout when I am deaf, yet none of the ordinary children in the district has ever had such an opportunity, glory be to God". - Evalyne Primary 6.

Funding situation

During the last financial year, the annual income to the Kisoro Trust has significantly decreased, which has meant that we have had to reduce the level of funds transferred to Kisoro by approximately 30%. In the longer term, this could potentially have an impact on the number of children that we are able to support via the Deaf Unit.

However, this year has also seen some new collaborations and developments at Kisoro Demonstration School. Alongside the Kisoro Trust, two further allies have come on board to support the work with disadvantaged children in Kisoro. Sustain For Life (SFL), a European sustainability charity, has made fantastic contributions to the school in terms of vital training, infrastructure and funding for travel expenses for the annual scouting competition in Nairobi. SEDCU (Supporting the Education of Disadvantaged Children in Uganda), based in the UK, has also offered generous support towards travel to the scouting finals as well as setting up a knitting project for older students at the school. This will enable children to learn an important skill which could be a valuable asset to them, especially if they are unable to continue their education beyond primary level.



IT lessons for Deaf students

Kisoro Demonstration School's head teacher Nkurikiyimana Gerald has been successful in securing three years of IT training for his students. Computer competency is becoming increasingly important for young people in Uganda, especially for those who aspire to continue their studies beyond primary level. In Kisoro, where about 80 percent of households are still without electricity, public computers are now becoming available and internet cafes are springing up rapidly.

Gerald is hoping that former Kisoro Trust student Nyiramirembe Peninnah, currently studying an IT degree at Kyambogo University, Kampala, will be employed to teach the course. Thanks again to SFL for providing this valuable opportunity.



Sign language training for parents of Deaf children

At the beginning of 2016, an intensive one week sign language course was run for parents and carers of students in the Deaf program.

For most parents this was their first formal training in sign language and it proved to be extremely valuable in improving communication and understanding between themselves and their children. Conducted by Nigibenga Obed, President of KDAD and former pupil of the school, the program focused on communicating basic needs and emotions as well as numbers, directions and other useful everyday vocabulary. This training, funded by SFL, was a groundbreaking project for the families involved and is due to run once a year for the next three years.



To make a donation

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

£ _____

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Address _____

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Alternatively, to arrange a bank transfer or set up a standing order, please send funds to:

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Royal Bank of Scotland
Bank account no: 00622646
Bank sort code: 83-19-15

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

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

Signed _____