

Happy New Year Everyone!



Volume 3 Newsletter

At the end of 2010, and after year two of our volunteer project being in operation, we would like to send our happy New Year message and thank you to all who came to our school project, plus those who didn't come physically but sent us financial support. It has really helped the school in many ways.



We thank every one of you for your love, dedication, kindness, expertise and time that you all take to tell friends about our project in Kyabirwa. Indeed, we are happy to say that you have really done a tremendous job to improve the lives of our pupils, teachers and the community at large.

As we wait for the exam results of 2010, we feel your efforts in everything here will yield the best results ever! We just can't wait until these results are released.

We are happy to inform you that our dear friends who came in the third term managed to do all that was possible for them to improve the academic standards and life skills in general. This was by them supplying us with more learning/teaching materials such as ink cartridges and computers (laptops). Though we are still working on getting a few of them to be fully operational, this is a very big change in a rural school like Kyabirwa. These volunteers continued with the lessons in phonics, art and crafts, physical education, science, English, maths, social studies and computer lessons for both teachers and pupils through full time teaching in the classrooms.



In a special way, allow us to say a very special “thank you” to all those who participated in any physical and/or monetary form in helping Kyabirwa as a community, all of us within the community are really appreciative for your wonderful work done for us.

The volunteers’ interaction with the community members in functions created another good relationship as well.





The above photos show the pictures on the very last day of 2010 at Kyabirwa when our AGM was held. The third word from everyone's mouth was to thank the volunteers for all they have done in Kyabirwa to improve the look of who we are today.

On this same day all pupils, teachers and parents were very happy! (as you can see from the photos below)



Left: Pupils heading to resource room for the sweets from Madam Liz Robinah giving out sweets



A child with his parent reading the report card



The staff posed for a photo outside the office after everything was done and the school closed

For our school trip sponsored by His Highness Paul Daniels of Soft Power, we really and honestly want to thank him for the trip to Entebbe.



Following the trip, some questions in the P.L.E Social Studies paper were related to what children saw physically in Entebbe. This means that we are assured of high marks from whoever went there. We shall ask more people to join him in funding it so we may take all the pupils from P5-7 or P6-7 every year.

The provision of meals and medical care has really brought a very big change to our school and more so in the pupils learning and community life in general. We have to thank the whole team of Madam Susannah Hills, Madam Louise and her team (just to mention a few) in their continued support in these areas. Please, we request you to continue with that parental tone towards our children.



Photo of the children lining for porridge

We also had our new kitchen painted in this third term by Mr. & Mrs. Tim Hills and their team, together with some teachers. We are all very happy to be served by such a good-looking powerhouse.



Before last year came to an end, we managed to get financial support from Mr. Paddy's friends that we too topped up with volunteer contribution. We are happy to report that we put in place two metallic doors and six windows with these funds. We thank the whole team that was here with us in the third term of last year for the good ideas and support that you gave us. May God reward you abundantly for all your efforts put in our school.



In December, our dear friends from Fund a Field came back to Uganda again and organized a two-day football tournament, which marked the official opening of our football field. These were wonderful days in Kyabirwa and over 2000 people enjoyed the Christmas days in a special way with a big smile on their faces. This was definitely the greatest time we've ever had for Christmas here.



We thank the Fund a Field team for their efforts that have today made Kyabirwa such a special place with, now, a wonderful playground. Thank you very much Fund a Field! By the way, Kyabirwa team won the victory!

We would love to be able to mention everyone's name here who has helped us. However, we are unable to recite everyone for lack of space in this newsletter! As stated earlier, in naming "you all" we think this covers everyone of you: the volunteers, sponsors and donors. My humble request is that you don't believe your participation, contributions, time and other means of help you provided to us has not been considered important. We appreciate all that you have done for Kyabirwa. Sadly, I can't go on mentioning each particular individual and all that they have done. In doing so, I know each person would need 2-3 pages to properly speak about him/her. From the bottom of our heart, you have all been so wonderful to us and we really value everything you have and are still doing to help us.

In a special way, we request everyone to allow us to mention the following people for what they have done: Madam Jitka started the sponsorship programme and she's now sponsoring 2 children as per 2010. She also will be continuing to sponsor as many pupils as possible.



Madam Shannah is sponsoring 13 children to a boarding school here in Uganda. She has bought them all the supplies required as well as sent all the fees to pay their term 1 2011 tuition. Madam Shannah is paying for these children in secondary education after P.7 from Kyabirwa Primary School.



Mr. Paddy and Madam Laura with their friends have paid for 200 copies of textbooks, which will be delivered soon as we open the school.

Our dear friends Jimmy and Ryan are working hard to get us about 25 computers if all goes well, and we pray for them to succeed in this program.

Madam Melissa Morningstar and her friend Mr. Joshua Bethel not only stayed to volunteer at the school but they stayed during the whole of December until now. They painted the present main hall inside during this holiday, joined the youths association called BYA-Teck formed here and participated in many community activities like: helping to clean the houses and compounds of the elderly people here in the community, buying and distributing these people with Christmas gifts (photos), and cleaning the worshipping places (churches and mosques) in the community.



Volunteers cleaning a compound of the elderly ones in the community



Building a sun drying stand in the compound



Giving Christmas gifts



This gentleman couldn't wait, and immediately ate his loaf of bread before we finished giving all the gifts to him.



Cleaning the church at Kyabirwa

The holiday also had time for some fun! Below are some pictures of the Owino children having some pool play time when the volunteers took the children for a swim.



They too initiated holiday teaching at Kyabirwa School for the secondary students in various subjects and computer lessons. Also they helped very much in the painting of the new volunteer accommodation. In Lusoga we have a saying: “**Mwinho akuwha omwebazanga**” meaning, whomever gives, you deserve to be thanked.

“**Banange, mwena mwena ba volutiya bayhiffe, mwebale inho inho inho, olwo’ moyo ogwo omlungi gutyo**” (Dear all our volunteers, thank you very much for that good loving heart that you have showed us in this community.)

We want to tell you all that our new volunteer accommodation is now completed and ready for use at any time from now. This block has 5 rooms with 2 beds in each room. We can now accommodate more than 14 volunteers at a time.



Our new volunteers accommodation

A special thanks goes to every one of you for this development made. It is for the volunteers’ use but a great development in a family from the African setting.

Our plans for the year 2011

From the experiences that we are currently facing and from your advice/suggestions, below is our work plan. It targets for 2011 the following as priority:

1. We want to have all doors and windows to be fixed metallic, providing security for our classrooms and school properties in general.
2. We want to have wall cupboards/shelves installed in all the classrooms for easy allocation, identification and storage of our learning/teaching materials. This will mean that any teacher in the school will have his/her office in that very classroom with everything in there. It will save time wastage for both teachers and pupils. It will also expose learners to all the resources available in their school.
3. We also require a new block for 5 more classrooms. This will enable us to stream the bigger classes into smaller manageable classes.
4. We are also considering completion of our teachers' accommodation, which is already at foundation level. This will help with arriving late at school and saves teachers from paying a lot of money for rent elsewhere.

We also continue to require supplies for the school. The following is an updated list of some important items not yet mentioned:

- Textbooks (we still need about 3400 copies to have the ratio of 1:1 in the examinable subjects. This is because we know of the good publicity work you are all doing out there. Friends may decide to send us money to buy the books over time. If it is agreed upon with that person, we will continue with that as done last year.
- Feeding children is one of the things that our friends focused on early October last year. This 2011, it is not a problem for our children.
- Ink cartridges, pens, reams of paper, pencils and sanitary pads etc. We know that those who are coming may bring them from back home as well.
- Firewood, paying the night watchman, plus our two cooks.

Other learning resources that may be required urgently can be obtained here from the volunteers contributions, and some can be obtained by the school.

We want to thank you all very much and wish everyone a prosperous New Year. We hope to work together in the future and keep lifting Kyabirwa higher and higher.



The Owino family with Mr. Joshua and Madam Melissa on New Year's Day.

Please forward this copy to your friends as this is the only way to publicise/advertise our project apart from the website, but please do not involve any other NGO or organisation in anything to do with our school or Volunteer Project without the express permission of the Head Teacher, Robinah Musakira or the Project Manager, Moses Owino

Thank you,
Owino Moses

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