

The Mityana Charity

Dedicated to helping the people of Mityana, Uganda

Registered Charity no.: 1064825



Issue: Jan 2017



Careers Workshop

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Sponsorship and Education

The core work of Mityana Charity continues to be supporting children and young people through education. The Sponsorship Coordinators in both the UK and Uganda constantly seek to help students to achieve their potential by directing them to the most appropriate courses and encouraging sponsors to do as much as possible to help the children and young people to keep up with their studies. Education is the means by which they can, in the future, have a greater chance of employment and therefore contribute to their family income and the community as a whole.



Picking coffee to raise money for school fees

'The country has been successful in enrolling more than 90% of children in primary school. But only about a quarter of young people remain in secondary school. This is a huge bottleneck for any ambitions to improve the job opportunities for young people or to think about expanding higher education.'

(From a report by Sean Coughlan BBC News education correspondent)

• Careers Workshop

On 12th and 13th of January students who are leaving school attended a careers workshop at the charity offices. This included secondary children in S2 and S3 (15-16 year olds or older) who are not making a success of secondary school and wish to do a vocational course.

The participants were helped to discover their life goals and how best they can achieve them. Many people gave testimonies on how they have achieved after starting from the same position as the participants.

• Degree Success

Congratulations to three students who have successfully completed degree courses in Mechanical engineering, Chemical Engineering and Demographic and Reproductive Health

• Exam results

The exam candidates are waiting for the results of the exams taken in November. The results should be published in the next week and will mean that those taking the Primary Leaving Examination will discover if they are able to move on to Secondary School, providing there are funds available for them to do so.



Thank you for solar panels

Solar Panels

In Uganda 96% of rural households lack access to electricity. Many of our sponsored children live in homes where they use kerosene lamps or candles to light their homes. Kerosene lamps are a poor source of lighting. The wicks smoke, the glass cracks, and the light may be too weak to read by. The World Health Organisation says the fine particles in kerosene fumes cause chronic pulmonary disease. Burning kerosene also produces climate-changing carbon-dioxide emissions. In addition there is a significant risk of fire from kerosene lamps leading to burns and deaths.

In December twenty families were blessed to receive solar panels from their sponsors enabling them to generate energy for lighting and for charging mobile phones which are essential in areas where communication is difficult. Many beneficiaries were overwhelmed with joy and said this was their best Christmas ever and thanked their sponsors so much. All the solar panels have been installed in their houses.

The Highs and Lows of Poverty Tourism

By Lucy Peett (Wellington College)

I came in peace, I left concerned. It must be said that my stop off tour of Ugandan poverty as a Caucasian female came with a predictable air of uncertainty and discomfort. The engrained suspicion from both parties was at times calmed by gifts of bubbles and new 'phonix' books from us to the children, yet how could it be that we; a group of 14 privileged students were making an active difference to these people's lives?

One moment that stung my white privilege most was marked by a shy young boy in a school. Upon presenting him with some token gifts of half a box of markers and a t-shirt bundled in a bag from his sponsored family; I was met with a response that has certainly changed many of my own philosophies forever. With a fog of tears behind his eyes, he stammered, "tell my English family I will love them forever, they have given me this chance and I will not let them down." Taking education for granted now became a deep wound that was to be repeatedly opened by the words and actions of Ugandan children, desperate to make a change to their own lives.



Team from Wellington College

With a comfortable bed, loving parents and an access to a top of the range education; my ignorance to the importance of children's rights was challenged by a symposium held by Mityana Charity. Georgie and I delivered a presentation to a room full of borderline unreceptive Ugandans, about the situation of children's rights today in the UK. For us, our research restored faith that government initiatives back home were helping children and parents alike.



The family live in a mud-built 'house' with a little outdoor shed used for cooking, and they have very little apart from food grown in the field. Even a small gift of the little bag of sugar and some soap was greatly appreciated!

Jana Revay (Orange Matron)

However, our talk was blurred by a stream of speeches addressing children's rights in their local town; such as all forms of child abuse, starvation, sexism, disability and most shockingly instances of child sacrifice. It was hard for me to imagine instances of parents not having unrelenting adoration for their child, because for me that was rarely an idea I had considered. The images of neglect were brought into stark relief during home visits around the area of Kasese. In reality, the houses were structured by corrugated iron and branches, and the open gutters were filled with green tinged water and other detritus. Outside, a boy that could not have been any older than 5 years-old was grappling on his sister as if his life depended on it; with no presence of any parental figure, I realised it probably did.



Children's Rights Symposium

150 guests from a range of charities, NGOs and government offices were joined by local schoolchildren to discuss current issues through a range of presentations.

Nik Light (Wellington Trip Leader)

This was not just some passing by Unicef advert, it was the terrifying reality for so many children in Uganda. Rural Mityana on market day: a flurry of sensations; the smell of cooking, cow manure and sewage somewhat distracted my increasing consciousness of my skin colour. Our presence created something of social spectacle. Being greeted "Mazungu!" (slang for white person) was emblematic that the colour of our skin was ultimately the only thing people really saw. Racial consciousness aside, numerous generous offers were made for my "services" and a romantic request for my hand in marriage; whilst amusing and bizarrely flattering, confused me.

Visiting maternity wards, prisons and schools with basic resources, led me to a dark place of introspection. These people were happy and thankful for what we had to give them, but the reality that I could walk away and I would be home in a warm and comfortable house in just a week dawned on me. Were our actions

patronising or were we seeking some sort of self enlightenment? 'Poverty tourism' is becoming a nascent niche for the curious traveller. Slum tourism or poorism; whatever you call it, all terms are as confrontational as the experience itself. The end result was motivating, however. Wellington's support for Mityana Charity is enabling a local charity to make a huge difference. Their initiative to educate children on their rights, help the handicapped, push for female education and so many more made us feel that what we were doing was not worthless. And seeing that change, is why it was worth it.

(This article first appeared in Wellington College Magazine for Orange House)

As a form of sponsorship for our trip, we collected money from parents in the Orange, as well as close family and friends, to buy bags of coffee. We taught a variety of lessons to the students at the primary school and also played very competitive games of both football and netball. It really made us students realise how much the money provided by sponsors and by the charity really impacts the lives of these children

Lucy Tompsett (Sixth Former)

A Message from Yasmin Jenkins

**Mityana Dinner and Raffle
Running 26 miles and
raising £3,000.**

As you probably realise, I'm running the London Marathon in April. Less than 110 days away at time of writing. In fact, I'm sat in bed in my running gear and will be off for a training run shortly!

There will be a Fund Raising Dinner on 4th March and a raffle ticket, check out the prizes available.

Raffle tickets, individual dinner spaces, or tables of 8 are available.

<http://runyasrun.simplesite.com/432699119>

Happy Browsing!

If you own, or work with a company you think would be interested in donating a prize, please give me a shout.

Yasmin Jenkins yjenks89@hotmail.com

Sponsorship

The children would like to thank their sponsors for the Christmas gifts they were given and the monies sent for their Christmas dinner.

Here is a little girl receiving her gift with her family.



A NOTE FROM ONE OF OUR SPONSORS

“A LITTLE BOY WE SUPPORT THROUGH HIS EDUCATION IN UGANDA HAS WRITTEN TO US WISHING US WELL AND ASKING FOR A PHOTO. HE ALSO EXPLAINS THAT HE HAS 2 HENS AND THAT IF WE VISIT HE WILL GIVE US ONE TO THANK US FOR THE GOOD THINGS WE HAVE DONE FOR HIM. HE TELLS US HE THANKS GOD FOR GIVING HIM PARENTS LIKE US. WE SUPPORT HIM AND ANOTHER CHILD BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT IS ONE SMALL WAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WE DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING IN RETURN BUT THIS LETTER HAS ME IN BITS!”

Christmas Party with fun and games and food for the Primary School children.



Mityana Charity AGM

To find out more about the Charity and to understand how it is run come along to the AGM on

16th May at 7.30pm

St Sebastian's Church, Parish Centre, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham, RG40 3AT

Lent and Easter Giving

Do something different for Lent this year - if you are giving up something donate the money to Mityana Charity or send an Easter card with the money you saved.

Contact: enquiry@mityanacharity.org



Through the purchase of this card money will go towards feeding the needy to help alleviate poverty in Mityana Uganda



Wishing you a very Happy Easter!

Through the purchase of this card money will go towards our hen scheme to help alleviate poverty in Mityana.

Sponsorship Selection Committee



Sponsors Needed

We still have many children needing sponsorship. We would be grateful if you could raise this with friends/groups.

Fees are still the same for 2017 (as long as the exchange rate doesn't drop any further!).

- £125 a year for primary fees from Nursery to P7
- Plus £150 for boarding for those going into P7 so they can concentrate on their final end of primary exams.
- Secondary fees are £250. First year secondary need an extra £70 to help set them up with the equipment they need for secondary school.

Future Plans

A New Office

We would like to raise funds to build a hub for the charity within Mityana. This would comprise of office accommodation and a business/conference centre with rooms to let as a means of generating income so that our team in Mityana can become self-sufficient. *If you can help us to start raising money for this project please contact us. It is urgent that we start raising funds for this as soon as possible.*

Are you looking for an exciting challenge? GAP year students, interns, retirees or anyone else interested in volunteering in Mityana. We could arrange placements for any length of time. Some of the projects you could be involved in include accounting, human rights, law, teaching,

the school for the deaf, agriculture, coffee farming, IT skills, medical, water projects, office administration.

Finally, a few financial reminders.....

Are you a **tax payer**? If so, please consider completing a Gift Aid form downloadable at:

mityanacharity.org/form_ga.doc

Are you Interested in leaving a **legacy** to The Mityana Charity?

For further information please see: mityanacharity.org/donations_legacy.html

A plea from our Treasurer

CAF donations

Please email enquiry@mityanacharity.org if you donate in this way, include:

Your name
The amount
The project for which it is intended

Thank you.

Bob Riddaway

CONTACT US

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