

The Mityana Charity

Dedicated to helping the people of Mityana, Uganda

Registered Charity no.: 1064825



Issue: Jan 2020

Happy New Year and thank you for your support in 2019

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Charles

Sarah

Celebrating Success

Charles' Story

After failing to gain a place at university in 2007 to study as a medical practitioner, Charles felt that there was no way he could achieve his dream as his family lacked the funds to support his advanced studies. His mother was struggling to find the necessary funds to educate his siblings and so Charles resigned himself to doing manual work on construction sites. Then Charles met his sponsor when she was on a visit to Mityana with Ann Potts.

Charles writes: *'In 2008 I was admitted for a Bachelor Degree in Pharmacy at Mbarara University of Science and Technology and graduated in 2012. After my graduation I worked in various places as a Pharmacist until I found a position in Dubai - United Arab Emirates where am working since 2017.'*

As a result, Charles has been able to support his family and his sisters have been able to continue their own studies.

Charles continues: *'My family is indeed transformed and I have no doubt that my siblings will lead a well empowered and self-sustaining life and support other needy people in our society. Having helped my siblings with this, I am now determined to give back to my community in different ways by sponsoring children that are in a situation like mine twelve years ago. My wife Daisy and I plan to establish a first class pharmacy back in Kampala to contribute towards ensuring availability of genuine drugs on the Ugandan market.'*

Sarah's Story

Sarah's family were often unable to afford her education and she recalls that she was sent home in tears for non-payment of fees and had little hope of continuing her on to secondary level. In 2005 she received a 'golden opportunity' from PaCT (formerly Mityana Uganda Charity)

'Everything changed all of a sudden with fees, scholastics and all study requirements being provided. All the tears I shed in my primary school had turned into joy. My parents were equally happy and concentrated on supporting my other siblings'.

Sarah completed her university studies in 2014 with a Bachelor's Degree in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management. After University she was taken through a series of business mentorship workshops at PaCT to broaden her practical business skills. She currently owns a retail shop in her area and at the same time is employed at PaCT under the Education and Livelihood department to support others and help them succeed in their education.

Edison's story



After a difficult early life with many challenges, Edison has made a good life for himself. He writes: *'I now work with the National Water and Sewage Corporation earning some money. Now I can stand on my own in the city, able to pay for food, rent and helping my family. All this is because of Mityana Charity in Uganda and in partnership with my sponsor and teacher who took the courage to introduce the unknown me to her.'*

Francis' Story

'I was selected by PaCT in 2007 after I was recommended by my teacher at Mityana Secondary School. The recommendation came as a result of increased absenteeism from school due to lack of school fees. I often missed school though this never deterred me from performing excellently in class, and it's my good performance that prompted my teachers to search for a possible sponsor and I ended up landing at PaCT.'

Francis successfully completed his A' levels and joined Makerere University where he graduated with a Bachelors of Demography and Reproductive Health in 2015. He currently works for an NGO based in Mityana as a data clerk.

Ex-Sponsored children PaCT Alumni Association Meeting.

On 23th November the alumni members held their meeting at PaCT offices and it was attended by 15 members. Different strategic issues regarding their social and economic wellbeing were discussed.



The association was encouraged to start an income generating corner at PaCT with initial focus on some of the courses undertaken during their studies. This would help build their skills and experience, business ideas, and motivate other beneficiaries as well as generate income for the association.

WASH projects

Thank you so much to all who have contributed to WASH Projects (*Water, Sanitation and Health*) in 2019!

We are glad to report the completion of a bore hole at Nakyenya Secondary School, which is a large school with 500 pupils and 32 staff. Some of the pupils are boarders and it is important that they have an adequate water supply. This project has been sponsored by the Franciscan Aid Fund.



We have also provided a water tank at Katiiti Primary School. There are 144 boys and 98 girls and 10 members of the staff at this school. This tank was sponsored by some individuals, and a large donation from the Highnam Benefice in Gloucestershire.

Here is a picture of the tank:



Thank you very much to all who contributed to the WASH Fund last year. In 2020 we hope to be able to provide more bore holes and water tanks and latrines. Do keep your contributions coming in. The more money we receive, the more water tanks and latrines we will be able to provide. Clean drinking water and proper latrines improve the health of the community and save lives. It is terrible that in the 21st century there are still communities in Uganda, and in other places, without these facilities, which we in the West take so much for granted.

Hugh Wakeling

Sponsorship

The inspiring stories of Charles, Sarah, Edison and Francis are witness to the difference that sponsorship can make not only for individuals but for families and whole communities. Sadly, for various reasons, people occasionally find themselves no longer able to sponsor their child. This is often when they move into secondary or vocational education.

If you are in this position, please could you consider finding someone to share the cost, or perhaps finding a new sponsor. Alternatively, you could make small (or larger if your finances permit) donations to a fund which is used to make up the shortfall for some children.

When children have to drop out, they feel abandoned. Many of these children are not academic and would struggle to cope but if they could follow a vocational course (such as welding, hairdressing, tailoring or knitting) they leave in a much better position to earn their living and in turn, help their families.

Careers Guidance



A Career guidance workshop for all the sponsored children in candidate classes was held at the PaCT offices. They were all encouraged to choose their courses wisely and to keep focused on their studies in order to get the best out of life and reach their potential.

Economic empowerment/ Livelihood

Following on from our sponsorship programme our Ugandan team has developed a course called Economic Empowerment.

We are looking to improve the households' standards of living through business and agricultural skills training. Together with DOTs (another local charity), 10 women including grandmothers were trained in backyard gardening. The vegetables will



help them generate income as well as improving nutrition in their families.

The supported women were selected from the current households where we support our children. Gardening space was also considered in the selection criteria and above all, interest in the project was paramount. Three of the 10 women were donated an initial start-up of seeds, pumps for spraying, fertilizer and pesticide.



PaCT Demo Vegetable garden

The demonstration vegetable garden that has been established at the office has already started yielding incomes. In the reporting period, cabbages, green paper and eggplants were harvested and sold in the nearby market hence bringing in capital for the next planting season.



The grandmothers have also continuously visited the garden to learn and also had an opportunity to share the fruits of the garden, taking home a few vegetables too. Vegetables like sukuma wiki and spinach were ready for harvest at 1¹/₂ months whereas the cabbages and eggplants took three months to be harvested. This indicates how quick one can start generating an income from these vegetables if well managed.

Congratulations



To **Ssemwogerere Simpson Achillies**, our first doctor, who just graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. He has been supported by PaCT since 2005 - to date.

Achillies writes: 'I would like to thank you and my sponsors so much for your efforts for making this African child realise that dreams come true. I am so grateful for your support and the charity that comes through PaCT.'

A Christmas Thank you

The children and their families thank their sponsors who gave them gifts for Christmas.



The sheer delight can be seen in their faces receiving gifts from someone who loves them in UK.



End of Term Meeting.



At the end of every term there is a meeting which aims at providing an opportunity for beneficiaries to get updates about the sponsorship programme and to share achievements and challenges. The children submit their report cards and also receive training on general hygiene and first aid. 170 parents and 216 children attended the meeting at the end of this term.

The children and their families would like to thank their sponsors for continuing to pay for them to attend school.

One day they hope that you will visit them in their homes.

Mityana Charity AGM

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

12th May at 7.30pm

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

**Geoffrey Kinaalwa,
Executive Director of PaCT
hopes to be in attendance.**

Sponsors Needed

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

- £180 a year or £15 a month 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.
- £300 a year or £25 a month. First year secondary need an extra £70 to help set them up with the equipment they need for secondary school.

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.



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.

Gift scheme change of address

If you would like to use our gift scheme for Easter or for any other occasion during the year, please send to **Graham Addison**

**2 Heatherway, Edgumbe Park,
Crowthorne, Berks RG45 6HG**

Finally, a few financial reminders.....

Gift Aid

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

mityanacharity.org/form_ga.doc

Legacies

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 notify us by email enquiry@mityanacharity.org if you donate in this way and include:

Your name

The amount

The project for which it is intended

Thank you

Bob Riddaway

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