

The Mityana Charity



Dedicated to helping the people of Mityana, Uganda

Registered Charity no.: 1064825

Issue: July 2019



Sponsored children with their equipment for the new term

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Sponsorship Fees Increase

Since 2012 we have kept our sponsorship fees constant but following our recent visit to Mityana we have realised that this is no longer possible. At present the money donated does not fully cover the school fees and there have also been insufficient funds for the children to receive their midday meal. This has a huge impact on their learning, because many would not even have breakfast at home before school and a hungry child cannot concentrate in lessons!

Therefore, reluctantly, after discussion with our colleagues in Mityana, we will be increasing the money we ask you to pay for the next academic year which starts in **January 2020**.

Primary fees will be £180 a year or £15 a month.

Secondary fees will be £300 a year or £25 a month.

If you are setting up a standing order, could you please start it in **November**, so we have everything in place for the transfer of fees for the start of the academic year.

A standing order form can be found by going to "Forms" at <https://www.mityanacharity.org/>

We hope that all sponsors will continue to support their sponsored child/children but if there is a problem please speak to us as soon as possible so that we can seek a new sponsor for your child. Sadly, if a sponsor ceases to support a child, the child will have to drop out of school as we do not have the funds to take over their fees. If you are in this situation a solution could be to share the costs between one or more people so that the sponsored child can continue with their education.

The families are immensely grateful for all you are doing to help their children and the difference sponsorship makes to the whole family.



Population, Poverty and Health

By Jen Penfold

We all know that our planet's population is rising to levels where some countries struggle to feed people, and it is even more difficult to develop living standards.

On our visit to Uganda, including a visit to a Maternity ward, it was clear that many families had more children than they could afford to educate, keep healthy and in some cases feed properly.

There is encouragement to use contraception, for health as well as family size but through ignorance, cultural and religious pressures, progress is slow – a drop to 5 children per family from 6 (the target is 4) but this is still too slow.

It was heartening to read this newspaper article by one of our charity's Directors, the Reverend Moses Semugooma speaking at the launch of the UN Population Report:

KAMPALA - Presiding over a funeral service of a mother who has died giving birth is one of the most depressing and saddening moments for Reverend Moses Semugooma, a family planning champion from Mityana Church of Uganda in Mityana district.

As a priest, Semugooma has presided over several funerals for mothers who died giving birth and infants who died at birth but such happenings send cold chills in his spine.

“As religious leaders, we have the obligation to advise our followers on what is right. We all know unplanned families are a source of poverty, we all know the dangers of unwanted pregnancies, we all know how contraceptives are important but why are we not telling the people?”

“Even when you are on the pulpit, you can advise people on family planning. As a church, if we want our people to develop, we must tackle these social aspects that are trapping them in poverty,”

The full article can be found at https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1500489/depressing-preside-funeral-mother-died-giving-birth-priest

It is only a drop in the ocean but every child we sponsor gets a chance of education, including sex education which we hope will encourage change.

Thank you all and thanks to people like the Rev'd Moses who are championing family planning and sexual health in Uganda.

Medical needs in Mityana Area

Achilles is a former sponsored boy who has now qualified as a doctor and has returned to his home villages to help those in need.

He writes:

I joined a Christian mission group of youths yesterday on their tour around Mityana area as a medical advisor. I saw the situation people live in and it touched my heart. People live in homes as single mothers with a single meal a day of poor diet, their children are malnourished

When you look at their bedding it js a heap of dirty clothes. There is no medical attention given to their children if have had an accident. They cannot afford even a packet of antibiotics. The toilets they use are so worrying ...I met this other single mother with two young ones. She has swollen legs. She said to us she thought it was witchcraft yet to me it looked like elephantiasis. She couldn't even afford going to a hospital. She has to look after the young ones and find them food to eat.

Jesus Christ touch Uganda. We need prayers for our country and with the little we have let's always touch a soul. It all starts with us ...more blessings come from giving than receiving.



Achilles graphically describes the great need which we in the west cannot really understand. Those people who contract typhoid and malaria may die because they cannot afford the treatment which is often under £20.

Graduation party

For the first time an event was held for all those who have finished their tertiary education within the last couple of years. This coincided with the opening of the Ajin Building. Graduation celebrations are often very expensive and this new venture celebrated success with students' families and the whole charity without the expense of going to Kampala. It also included those who have learnt to be welders or hairdressers as well as those who have gained a degree.



Staff Safeguarding training

The new Administration and Resource Centre

PaCT have moved into their new permanent home.



The new building completed

Safeguarding

Mityana Charity and PaCT take safeguarding very seriously and so following advice from the Charity Commission we employed a consultant to help us develop our Safeguarding Policy. Part of this was to ensure our staff and directors in Mityana are properly trained and able to develop their own Safeguarding Policy. Helen Thompson, one of our committee members, who trains staff in the UK, worked alongside Florence Nabukala, our sponsorship coordinator to carry out training on our recent visit. Florence had also recently attended a week long Child Protection course in Uganda. They will report every month to the Committee whether or not any issues have arisen.

In May 2018 we dreamt of having our own admin and resource centre. By May 2019 it had been built and the team had moved in. This means that we no longer have to pay money for rent which releases funds for other projects in the community.



Jean at the opening of the Ajin Building

Looking for a gift for your sponsored child?

How about giving the family a water filter system costing £20. This will help to alleviate typhoid and other water borne diseases. Here you can see our WASH coordinator explaining how to use the filter system and maintain it.



General Office and Reception



Sponsoring a grandparent

When we visited in March it was very uplifting to see that the grandparents who had been sponsored had put the money towards income generating projects: pigs, cow, buying and selling on timber, chickens. This then helps them to provide food and other needs for their dependents. Many grandparents are left with children to care for after their own children die from HIV/AIDS, typhoid, malaria or other diseases. The children help the grandparents with these projects which also teaches them basic skills in animal husbandry and budgeting. If you would like to support a family in this way, it still only costs £15 a month.



Report on WASH Projects:

This year, thanks to all who have sent contributions so far, we have started on four new WASH Projects. These involve a bore hole, a water tank and two sets of four-door latrines. So far, we have completed the latrines at Mpenja Primary School, and here is a picture of them:



We hope to complete the other three projects quite soon. The fifth WASH Project will be a second water tank and we already have £ 500 towards it. The total cost will be about £ 1,500, and when the balance of the money comes in, we will construct this new water tank.

Thank you very much to all of you who have contributed to the WASH Fund this year. Do keep your contributions coming in! The more money we receive, the more water tanks and latrines we will be able to provide.

Hugh Wakeling

Vocational Training



Jean was impressed with the care given to our sponsored children at Gayaza vocational school.

Would you like to visit Mityana?

Jean Ajin is considering a visit in 2020 and is keen to hear from anyone who would like to take part. There is also the possibility of going on a safari. Do get in touch if you are interested.

CONTACT US

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Follow us:



Sponsors Needed

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

- £180 a year for primary fees from Nursery to P7
- Secondary fees are £300. First year secondary need an extra £70 to help set them up with the equipment they need for secondary school.

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

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

Your name
The amount
The project for which it is intended