

Friends of ACET Newsletter

Projects ..#2

Welcome to this edition!

Support to the vulnerable is not easy to sustain – yet their needs grow with each passing day. This quarter on two occasions we gave out material assistance to orphans and vulnerable children/families.. gifts that made a difference!

In this newsletter we continue to share with you staff profiles...so that you get a better understanding of ACET Uganda as a whole.

The layout of this newsletter is not very different from the previous one. This is intentional so that people can keep track of the 3 projects (construction) that are taking place.

**BRAVO.. ACET
CZECH + THANK
YOU!!**

Mosquito Nets for Children

Following their attendance at the ACET Uganda Conference, a team of staff from *ACET Czech* were touched by what they saw. On returning to their country, they decided to do something for those that they had left behind. A total of 115 mosquito nets, 160 sweaters and 792 dozen exercise books were bought for 2 communities. The nets were timely, as it was the season where there is a lot of absenteeism due to illness.

Each net cost \$4.87 or £2.65. In addition to the children who directly benefited, it is our expectation that due to the size of the nets, at least another 3 children will benefit from each gift!

PROJECTS UPDATE....

1. Nakulabye Junior School

ACET received the gift from the FAU towards the purchase of the Nakulabye Land. **Thank you very much for this.** We have had discussions with the Management of the school. Plans to level the football field so that children use it and to relocate a community stand pipe (a local well) have been put in place.

The parents were more than eager to offer manual labour to dig an alternative drainage system. We shall keep you posted.

2. KITGUM – Resource Centre

Kitgum Resource Centre is being roofed. A few photos can be obtained from Robert Mortimer and /or Shelia Dixon. We have held discussions with Christian Aid – which is eager to see the project come to a good end. We are seeking resources to equip and furnish it.

Medium Term Plans:

We are seeking to place used sea containers in the camps – so that ACET can have a youth counsellor closer to the people. We plan to have play centres attached to these as well to give some psycho-social relief to the children and communities especially in the wake of “*decongestion*” of the camps.

3. MBALE – Sports Centre

A series of drawings, changes, alterations and still more alterations have finally yielded an appropriate sports facility that ACET Mbale shall have in the community. The original plan of having a building has moved to a more practical pavilion and associated structures. Plans are available with the Manager Mbale.

Hiccups.. and more hiccups!!

Yea! We tend to hit those all the time. The district red tape is kind of a nightmare.. it is challenging our time schedules!! Hum...

Focus on Staff #2

Nivas Ddumba:

Nivas is the Office Manager. She has served in ACET for the past 7 years. She receives our calls and is our ‘gateway’ to the outside world. She has recently not been experiencing good health and would appreciate your prayers for healing and general strength.

Patrick Lubowa:

Patrick completed his University Education and had his graduation in March 2006. Patrick joined ACET as a volunteer and was then retained as an admin assistant (part time). He later joined the staff on a full time basis.. and we are benefiting from his enormous energy!

Kitgum Staff:

The region has recently been hit by cholera. Pray for the team as they seek wisdom for the best way to intervene and help the community.

Alfred Akena:

Alfred has been a blessing in the Kitgum office. Why? Because on top of being a staff member (Community Nurse by profession) he is also a Pastor of a local church. Through him, the staff has benefited three fold. Alfred has been elected in the community as a local councillor! Well, we wish him well as he serves the community more.

David Oyet

David Oyet joined ACET as a worker in the *most feared* region of Kitgum – Agoro. The region borders Sudan and in the past was the scene of many attacks. It is also the most scenic area – beautiful rocks, hills and vegetation. David oversees the activities there – aiming at bring Agoro to *par* with the work ACET has carried out in Palabek Gem – which is now a shining model.

Oyet like Godfrey is getting married this year... good for him!

(Cont'd Page 2 Col 2)

ACET News Snippets:

New Staff..

ACET Mbale is growing from strength to strength. ACET UK has raised support for 2 educators, admin support and contributed to core costs. The new staff are *Emma Gonahasa*, *Archilies Kiwanuka*, and *Trudy Namusoke*. The buzz of activity in Mbale now is one of excitement and freshness. We in the ACET Uganda family are looking on eagerly to see what is in store for us. The plan is to scale up the school coverage in Mbale and neighbouring districts and to bring new innovations in the Lifeskills work in ACET Mbale.

End of Year Balances

ACET has had a 'big' positive balance this financial year. The growth in its consultancy services and an expansion of partnerships in Northern Uganda has seen the reversal of the gloomy financial picture! End of year Audits report shall be available in this coming quarter. Please contact Robert Mortimer from July onwards.

RPI :

This next quarter will see a lot of travel to build the capacity of a number of Christian organisations in the region. The travels for a number of staff shall include visits to Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Mozambique and ... participation in the International AIDS Conference in Toronto by Paul Kato, who shall, in addition, be playing a key role in the pre conference administration of workshops.

ACET Congo.. rolling on.

A series of meetings have been held in Congo with their upcoming Board. The meetings were held in Goma facilitated by Yvonne. The response is promising.

The paper work has been submitted to the authorities who should soon give the green light to get work going. ACET International and ACET UK have raised some funds for initial work and we are trusting the ACET Uganda track record shall help get funds for them in the country with partners such as UNAIDS and the Global Fund.

Patrick and Sheila Dixon and David Kabiswa will have the opportunity of meeting the team in Kinshasa later in the year (October 2006).

Prayer Request: **CAMP Decongestion**

Please pray for the people and households of Northern Uganda. Decongestion is now underway in response to a policy that was put in place a couple of months ago. There are still a number of loose ends to tie up before we can call the process smooth!

People want to go home and many are happy to go. The reality of going home or at least closer home is not without its major challenges.

SAMARITAN PURSE's GIFT

Samaritan Purse USA gave a substantial gift (donation) to ACET, that was to directly benefit orphans, vulnerable children and/or families. The past few months have seen the culmination of this. Through this project children have been clothed (school uniforms and play clothes), got shoes, and scholastic materials. From a household perspective, families have received goats and turkeys as a means of supplementing their diet and or household income. It is always great to see people's smiles when their pressing needs are met. One person said, "*we pray for you because, we know that even though you are far away from us you will always remember us, and our needs.*" Yet another said, "*you are different, whenever we get something from you, you never send anyone to bring it, or ask us to fetch it, you bring it yourselves all the way from Kampala!! We feel valued by you and we treasure our friendship*".

When I heard that I was humbled, it reminded me how it is the little things that make a difference in people's lives – especially how they feel valued even if they are a 'recipient of charity'. God bless you all – our partners. We are doing this service together in Christ's name!

(Focus on Staff from page 1)

Constance:

Constance is a counsellor with ACET Kitgum. She has the difficult work of listening and encouraging the young people and adults who come for assistance. Constance works with a team of counsellor aides and skilled helpers that have received training from a number of sources. The work to be done is still a daunting challenge!

Constance has been having trouble with her heart and this has slowed her down a bit the past 2 months. We will appreciate the concerted prayer from the readers of this newsletter.

ISSUES OF CONCERN

Resurgence of HIV Infection??

Uganda AIDS Commission is organising a Think Tank session that is to be held in the last week of June. There are disturbing reports about the resurgence of HIV infection. This is a cause for worry among the HIV and AIDS activists... and something that calls for introspection. What is going on?

Discordance on the increase?

The AIDS Information Centre has been reporting an increase in the number of discordant couples. While it used to be said that about 30% of couples were discordant (one and not both partners being HIV+ve), recent figures were revealing 68% of couples were discordant. Questions are being asked about this phenomenon and scientific explanation being sought.