



Uganda News: April 10

Welcome to edition two of our 2010 newsletter.

Dear friend(s),

As we share with you our exciting moments and challenges we appreciate your continued support and prayers towards our work here in Uganda. Get inspired by the news and stories about the Skills Training Project graduation, adult literacy programme underway and many others in this edition.

With warm wishes

Cathy Nalumansi
Fundraising & Communications Officer

Skills Training Project young women graduate



The STP graduands rejoice

On 10th February 2010, 30 young women graduated from the Bambejja Skills Training Project (STP) at a colourful ceremony at the Bambejja Community House of Hope. The girls who were very smartly dressed in graduation gowns shared their testimonies and expressed their gratitude to the STP team and their parents by giving them gifts. The ceremony was presided over the Chairperson of the Disabled Women in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. Here is what some of the young women had to say...

"I am privileged to be employed in a guest house with no academic papers unlike the rest of the rest of my colleagues." Faith

"Previously, life was very difficult before I joined Bambejja. Now with the skill I have learnt in hair dressing, I have acquired a job and my family and I can never go hungry. I am also able to work on my mother's hair at no cost." Ritah

News from Beersheba

Adult Literacy Learning underway

Beersheba has recruited an Adult Literacy Co-ordinator who will oversee a new adult literacy training programme which is open to community members. So far 26 people from the community have registered for the programme and we hope that it will be a success.

Irene Namataka will be greatly missed...



Irene Namataka (RIP)

On a sad note, one of the Beersheba staff members, Irene Namataka, who was a cook at the project, suddenly passed away on Sunday morning, 28th February, without any warning – simply collapsing and dying in her home. Irene was an amazing woman, faithful, dedicated, hardworking, deeply humble, compassionate and a loyal Christian. She has left a big gap here and will be sadly missed by her three children and her family who are extremely shocked and the team at Beersheba who were close to her.

Please pray for us especially the Beersheba team and her family as they try to cope with her passing and work out what life looks and feels like without her.

Other News over the last 3 months

Bambejja Holiday programme

The girls at the Child Support Project had their holiday programme activities which were carried from 18th to 25th January 2010. The girls were involved in different activities included cookery, craft making and daily devotions. They also had a debate on formal and informal education; justifying why each of them is important. In addition, some of the girls who completed the primary level exit exams passed well with one of them being

the best at her school. We are excited that the girls' performance is improving steadily and their confidence growing tremendously.

HIV/AIDS Community Awareness Day

On 26th January, Bambejja in partnership with Makerere University Hospital organised an HIV/AIDS Community Awareness Day which was attended by the girls, their carers, other members of the community and the Bambejja staff members. The training was very interactive and insightful with so many asking about the different ways HIV is spread and best ways on how to prevent contracting it. Most of the carers were keen on getting tested to know their status.

Building entrepreneurs for the future...

Net2Work, in addition to IT, job and life skills training, also provides students with training in entrepreneurship. This part of the programme provides students with knowledge and skills on how to start and manage a business effectively, thus equipping them with the skills they need to become self-employed amidst the high competition for limited jobs in Uganda.



Joseph weighing groceries for sale

Joseph is one of the students who received this training at the Gulu eAcademy. Joseph lost his father during the LRA war and is now living with his mother in Gulu. He could not continue with his education after the death of his father which propelled him to consider joining the rebels to survive.

Fortunately Joseph managed to join the eAcademy where he graduated after he received the IT and entrepreneurship training. He managed to open up a small business in the Gulu main market. He was also elected as the secretary of the main market. He now plans to upgrade his Basic computer skills to a diploma level and also expand his business.

Joseph has bought himself one computer and a printer with a loan he secured from the Micro Finance Scheme in Gulu and plans to open up a computer centre.

This is what Joseph says, *"Oasis has contributed much in raising my standards of living and I pray that it should continue to help my friends and brothers with these good skills. I know how to relate with other people and I have many friends, which used not to be the case in the past."*

Through your support, Joseph and many other young people including their families have been equipped to live independently and make a contribution to their society. Every cent, penny or shilling donated has made a difference in their lives. Thank you very much.

With your ongoing support financially and other ways, we

will continue to have a lasting impact in the lives of the disadvantaged children, young people and their families.

Upcoming event- Girls' birthday bash!



Girls at Bambejja cut their birthday cake in 2008

Many of the girls at Bambejja and Beersheba do not know exactly when they were born but we think they all deserve a birthday party! Join us in making this dream come true by making a contribution towards this special day on 6th May, 2010 when we plan a big joint celebration for all of the girls. For more information please log on www.oasisuganda.org

We appreciate all those who have committed to give regularly. If you are not doing so already, we would love you to prayerfully consider setting up a standing order or perhaps encourage someone else in your church or community to do so. Thank you for your support and interest!

To make payments please visit www.oasisuk.org/donate or contact us at the following addresses

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Prayer and Thanksgiving

- Please pray for the safety of our girls that we work with as we had one case of a girl who was trafficked to Kenya to work as a cosmetic worker. We thank God that she was found and brought back home safely.
- Please continue to pray for good health and safety for our staff members. One of our staff members at Bambejja, Aunt Lydia Musoni got burnt with fire last month. Please pray for her quick recovery.
- We thank God for the students who have successfully completed the course at the Net2Work Gulu and Pader eAcademies. Please pray that they will be able to get meaningful jobs or return to school to complete their education.