

NEWSLETTER

June 2009



Annette Mbedha
Founder & Director

Message from Annette Mbedha

Dear Sponsors, supporters and friends of BSUF, I would like to take the opportunity – in this our first newsletter - to thank you all for your support which has made our recent progress possible.

From my early childhood I had a dream – a dream of bringing education and hope to the wonderful children of the remote and beautiful Butansi village and sub-county in south-eastern Uganda, a place I am so proud to call my home.

Gradually, with your help, the dream has become reality! Starting with just two children being educated, BSUF has grown and is now a UK registered charity under the name of Children of Uganda UK, operating and supporting a variety of educational and livelihood projects in the area.

So let's take a look at what we have achieved so far and at the various projects that we now have in place and what we seek to do in the future.

Annette

Our Education Programs



With your help we now sponsor the education of over 60 children in the Butansi area, by paying for their educational needs in terms of their

school fees and other expenses at the local schools. We currently have ten candidates in primary education who are due to begin secondary school next February, depending on how they perform in their exams. Three of our older students finished primary school last December and have now joined St. Paul's and Mutai senior Secondary Schools. These opportunities would not have become possible without your help in funding their primary education via BSUF.



Schools Link between the UK & Uganda

Children of Uganda (UK) has established a link between Rushden Community College in Northampton Future Victory, one of the schools we work with in Butansi sub-county.

It is a mutually beneficial arrangement, with Rushden fundraising to provide the construction of an Art Room at Future Victory, while the children there have made handicrafts, such as footballs and skipping ropes from local materials and sent them to their friends in England. The college is devoting a whole day of activities on Uganda in July, which Annette will attend on behalf of BSUF.

Adult Learning in Butansi Village

It is not easy to create a culture of education in a place like Butansi. Things we in Britain take for granted, such as the rationale behind the education of children, need to be introduced – so that the community can appreciate the benefits education can bring to them all, adults as well as children. This is one of the aims behind our Adult Education Program. BSUF has introduced free adult learning classes for the adults in the village to learn to read and write in their local language (Lusoga). As well as providing them with literacy – a basic human right – this has played a big role in explaining to some parents as to why their children should go to school. Also those adults who pass their exams will be entitled to participate in the next BSUF farming project.



Livelihood Program: Pigs for Life!

A year ago, in March 2008, BSUF helped two women's groups in Butansi to start piggery farming. Each group was presented with two piglets and now



one of the sows has given birth to a litter of eight piglets! Unfortunately, one died, but the other seven will be passed on to other adults for rearing. And the women's group that has just passed their learning exams will soon start off with two piglets of their own. Here is the Bulunga Zone (Butansi) Piggery Women's Group with Rev Jethro.



Helping St. Mary's Church, Butansi

This month we were delighted to be presented with a beautiful 200 year old St. James Holy Bible by the Rev. Martin Ambler of Richmond Hill St. Andrew's Church in the Dorset city of Bournemouth. In addition, over £350 was donated by the congregation to provide for new wooden pews for St. Mary's Church – so that the whole congregation can be seated during services. Rev Jethro Mukembo and the congregation of St. Mary's are absolutely delighted. And this project has also resulted in the church and members of the congregation sponsoring 5 children, so far, in Butansi.

Annette Mbedha would like to thank
Rev. Martin Ambler & the congregation
for your generous gift of this Holy Bible.
It will have pride of place in
St Mary's Church, Butansi, Uganda



And thank you for your
kind donations to help
provide wooden pews for
St Mary's church, so that
all can now be seated.

BSUF

Buyemba Suubira Uganda Foundation

Children of
Uganda (UK)

University of Sussex's Suubira Uganda Society

We are happy to announce that there is now a student society at the University of Sussex especially dedicated to supporting BSUF & conducting fund raising activities on our behalf. Kacper Przyborowski & his fellow students at SUS also promote Ugandan food and culture at the university and we are delighted that Kacper and Rafaella are visiting Butansi in July to personally see how SUS and BSUF is helping the lives of the people there. For more information, you can find SUS on FaceBook – under Suubira Uganda Society, or you can e-mail them at: sus@ussa.sussex.ac.uk



Chairman's Comment

I am delighted to report that Annette's dream and our shared vision is starting to be fulfilled. We are now about to embark on our most ambitious project to-date – but one that will make a profound difference to the future development of the whole community. We need your help for a major new fundraising program to build a Community Centre for the Butansi area – to provide a focal point for social and health services that are so badly needed. We hope that we can continue to rely on your ongoing support.

John Faith – BSUF Chairman

Building a Community Centre

Architectural plans are being drawn up for a Community Centre to be built to provide a central focus for the area. It is planned to be built on St. Mary's Church land owned by the Busoga diocese. The Centre will provide a focus for a centralised program for the health, education and wellbeing of the whole community. We will keep you informed on this exciting project, which will require significant funding. We will be setting up a special Fund for this important project – which also involves drilling a water bore hole, providing proper sanitation and hopefully solar energy and satellite for the introduction of the internet. This centre will make a profound difference to the quality of these people's lives and their future.

Please continue to Support Us.

BSUF will be organising some major fundraising events, including African Themed Evenings in Bournemouth and Brighton – which will be specially ticketed events with African food and entertainment + a raffle and an auction with items kindly donated by local businesses & friends.

We need your continued support:

Why not host your own fundraising event with colleagues, friends or family. Or raise money on our behalf at regular sponsored events and fun runs. We can provide charity collection boxes & other merchandise. Just let us know.

PLEASE MAKE A DONATION:

mycharitypage.com

www.mycharitypage.com/childrenofugandaukBSUF

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