

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2010



### Message from Annette Mbedha

*Welcome. As many of you know, from my early childhood I had a dream – a dream of bringing education and hope to the children and villagers of the remote and beautiful area of*

*Butansi and the Kamuli sub-county in south-east Uganda, the place my family came from and I am so proud to call my home. We have been busy and this newsletter will update you on what we have been doing. Now is a particularly interesting time for me as I am about to go back to Uganda to view the various projects that we have put in place and to see my family, whom I have not seen in a long time. Also I am delighted to report that we have now been given approval to build our Community Centre on the land alongside St. Mary's Church in Butansi. This is wonderful news and another milestone to achieving my dream. Now comes the hard part of building the Community Centre and making it all happen. I would like to thank you all so much for your continued support.*

Annette - Founder

### Update on our Education Program



Last December ten of our students sat their Primary Living Exams (PLE), passed and then in February they all started at their new

secondary schools. So BSUF is now funding the secondary education of 15 students in a number of schools in the Kamuli, Jinja and Iganga districts. This picture shows our eight students at St Paul's Secondary School in Kamuli.



We now support 65 children with their primary schooling. They are so happy and are all very appreciative of the many opportunities their sponsors are

giving to them by their support. So a big thank you from the children and from us all at Children of Uganda (UK) and BSUF.

### Rushden College provides funding for Art Room at Future Victory School

The creation of an art room for the Future Victory School in Butansi will be entirely thanks to the efforts of The Rushden Community College in Northampton. Annette had put the Year 9 students at Rushden College in touch with the students at the school and they identified the need for a special art room, where they could work on and store their art projects. Here is Annette receiving the cheque from the college and the new art room will soon become reality and a vibrant cultural space for the students at Future victory School. A big thank you to Rushden College and all their efforts on our behalf.



### Florence goes mobile...



Unlike in England, the villages in Uganda are quite big and spread out. Our schools and our livelihood projects operate over a number of different villages next to Butansi. So this meant that our trustees had to walk long distances on foot to monitor and coordinate the various projects for BSUF. The School Council at Rushden Community College kindly donated money that has been used to buy a bicycle for BSUF Trustees in Butansi. Here is Namusisi Florence, BSUF's Secretary, with the bicycle. She says, "I would like to thank Rushden College for the gift of the bicycle, which means that I don't have to walk long distances between projects anymore. The bicycle has made such a difference."

### Update on Richmond Hill St Andrew's, Bournemouth's donation for Pews for St. Mary's church in Butansi



Following the kind donation by Richmond Hill St Andrew's Church, we are happy to report that the new pews are being made and being received with great joy by Pastor Jethro and his congregation at St. Mary's Church. Soon the entire congregation will be seated! And a special plaque will be put in place to honour the generosity of the church in Bournemouth.

And Annette is so looking forward to presenting, to Pastor Jethro, in person, the St. James's Holy Bible given to her by the Rev. Martin Ambler of Richmond Hill St. Andrew's Church. She knows that it will hold pride of place in St. Mary's Church in Butansi and will be so much appreciated. A huge thank you to the generosity of Rev Ambler and all his parishioners in Bournemouth – for these donations and also for their sponsoring the education of five children in the region.





### The Signum Foundation supports talented student Jonathan Oketayot

Jonathan is a very bright and deserving student, whose mother could not afford his tuition fees at secondary school. The Signum Foundation has

come to the rescue and is going to provide the fees & other expenses for Jonathan to attend St. Mary's College in Kisubi. BSUF supporter Kacper Przyborowski, who formed the SUS Society at Sussex University, put us in touch with his parents Jaroslaw and Hanna who run The Signum Foundation, based in Poznan, Poland and supports children and youth. A big thank you to Kacper and his parents for their generous donation.

### Urgent need for a Village Clinic

Easy access to affordable medical care is nearly unheard of in rural Uganda. There are no local emergency rooms or ambulance services. To see a doctor, rural people often have to hike for miles. And for serious problems, the ill are carried on makeshift stretchers by their friends and family - a bumpy trip that can take hours! Given these circumstances, BSUF is going to set up a village clinic where malaria, diarrhoea, coughs and other infections will be treated. This project is due to begin early 2011.

### Permaculture Program in Butansi

BSUF is in the process of starting a permaculture project in the village. Florence attended a 2 week permaculture course, organised by Children of Uganda USA in Rakai District. She found it fascinating and is now geared up to implement what she learnt into a program in Butansi. The program will include permaculture methods for planting and nurturing trees, fruits and vegetables, as well as the successful rearing of domestic animals, including cows, goats, pigs, hens and ducks. The program looks to implement general improvements in health and nutrition.

### Update on our Livelihood program - pigs for life!



Our piggery project has now expanded with more sows giving birth to piglets, which have been

passed on to other women in our group. They look after the piglets at their homes, but unfortunately some have died due to poor nutrition and lack of proper care. Annette is planning to address this situation through our forthcoming permaculture program.

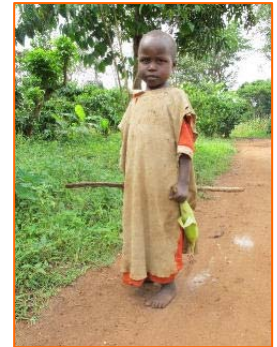


### David Brunetti's visit to Butansi village July 2010

David Brunetti is a professional photographer who recently visited Uganda and Butansi village. This is what he said about his memorable visit:

*"Time has a different meaning in Uganda, and journeys within the country are long. The hills are lush, the roads are rutted and*

*pitted. The further away you move from the urban areas the longer the journey bridging short distances. I had never been to Uganda. I had never travelled to Africa before. So I had no idea of what was awaiting me in Butansi. I didn't know what to expect and in many ways I wasn't prepared for what was awaiting me. I knew that like many rural areas Butansi only has limited electricity supply, and since I'm travelling with digital photographic equipment and a laptop, the impracticalities of life without electricity was my greatest reservation. When I finally*



*got to Butansi - after the long journey - its beauty and tranquillity surprised me. Night falls early in Butansi, so evenings are long and spent in darkness. Families and friends gather around the mellow light of hearths to spend the evening in each others company. And the last chores of the day are done by the warm light of the oil lamps. My favourite time was*

*the evening - spending time with my new friends, preparing food over the open fire, and the magnificent skies - I have never seen so many stars.*

*When I first got to Butansi I felt it was filled with a sense of calmness. Its fertile soil is bright red. It gets in between your teeth and toes. Mango trees are growing everywhere. And families grow vegetables and fruit on their plots nearby. A fine red dust covers your skin and sinks in your pores. The red soil stays on you even after a long shower. The countryside is lavish and green.*

*I only spent a short time in Butansi, but during that time I had the wonderful chance to get to know some of the villagers, become friends, and gain an insight into their way of life. The people I met welcomed me with open arms and hearts. The children were excited and happy to meet me. The young children cried "Mozungo, Mozungo!" Any shyness subsided quickly and they were chasing me playfully. I was especially touched by the sense of community and connectedness - doors are always open for neighbours and friends, people are always ready to help, always friendly and courteous, always welcoming."*

### 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 and thank you for your support.

### PLEASE MAKE A DONATION:

[www.mycharitypage.com/childrenofugandaukBSUF](http://www.mycharitypage.com/childrenofugandaukBSUF)

or visit our website on: [www.buyemba.org](http://www.buyemba.org)



