

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010



Message from Annette Mbedha

Dear Sponsors and Supporters of BSUF.

Greetings to all of you from Uganda, the sunny Pearl of Africa, and, in particular, from the people of Butansi.

It is such a great feeling to be home after such a long time away from my homeland.

I would like to sincerely thank all of you for your continued support of our work here in Uganda. I have had such a busy time since my arrival, viewing all our various projects on the ground, meeting community leaders and working with the BSUF Uganda Trustees. The Trustees have done a tremendous job of taking care of all the projects for us.

In this newsletter you will be updated on all our projects – both old and new. I would especially like to thank our UK volunteers, who have spent the past few months in Butansi and been of great help to us.

I am extremely positive about 2011 and the progress that we can make and what we can achieve for the people of Butansi.

Annette - Founder

Update on our Education Program

Thanks to our sponsors, we now support over 80 children through their primary and secondary schooling in schools across the area.

Annette has now visited the schools and seen, for



herself, how all the children are benefiting from the support they have been given from BSUF.

She will regularly update you on their progress.

More funds will be required to pay for their secondary level education.



Annette attends the Land Demarcation Ceremony for the new BSUF Community Centre in Butansi

In October Annette attended the official demarcation of the 2 acre piece of land at St. Mary's Church that has been donated for our Community Centre by the Busoga Diocese (Church of Uganda). Present at the event were the Lands Estates Officer from the diocese, the Archdeacon and parish representatives, local council leaders and residents of Butansi Village to act as witnesses. It was an exciting moment for Annette to sign that paper So we are over the first major hurdle in pursuing BSUF's exciting new project. The next step is to drill a water borehole and negotiations are already underway with Dig Deep, a charity that provides volunteers for such projects. As BSUF embarks on a major fundraising exercise to pay for the building of the Community Centre, work will begin on developing the land for arable development.



UK Volunteers experience Butansi Sept – Nov 2010



Duncan, Rob and Jane arrived in Butansi in September and volunteered to help with BSUF projects. They visited and worked with the sponsored children and donated educational material such as study charts, pens, pencils, books, Lusoga to English dictionaries (Lusoga being the local dialect), sports equipment including footballs, rugby balls and basketball nets. They have made a fantastic contribution.

BSUF starts an arts & crafts program in Butansi



Volunteers have also donated jewellery making equipment – books, drills, beads and strings which have been used by the women of Butansi to make necklaces and bracelets from local seeds, mats and bags. This is a new enterprise for Butansi. The jewellery already made has



been bought from the locals and is being taken back by the volunteers for sale in the UK. Once this program is fully operational we will offer our wares for sale on the website and at BSUF events.

A new piggery project for Butansi

A brand new pigsty has been funded and built by volunteers, with the help of the local people. The experience gained by this centrally located project will help the women with their personal home projects.

Annette gets help for her Mobile Medical Clinic

Easy access to affordable medical care is unheard of in rural Uganda. 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 mobile clinic where malaria, diarrhoea, coughs and other infections will be treated. Tim Beacon of Medical Aid International CIC has already met with Annette and is helping us to progress this important project.



British Fundraising Cycle around Lake Victoria for BSUF

Duncan Cramb and Rob Hazelton set off on a challenging 1,000 mile bike ride fundraiser around Lake Victoria – with an enroute break to climb Mount Kilimanjaro! They targeted to raise £2,000 and already over £1,850 has been raised for BSUF. The end point is to be Butansi Village where they will be warmly welcomed. To donate – go to:

www.mycharitypage.com/RobH2010LakeVic

Chairman's Comment

2010 has been a productive year for us. We have seen the number of our BSUF sponsored children expand, thanks to your kind generosity. And we are starting to see the fruition of all our efforts to provide a Community Centre for the area.



The plans are drawn up and now we have had the Demarcation Ceremony for the land donated by the Busoga Diocese, in the area we wanted alongside St. Mary's Church – and so work can begin. First we will drill a borehole and install a water catchment facility and we are grateful to Dig Deep for their help on this. Next, with the help of volunteers, we will set about clearing the land and planting self sustaining crops and vegetables.

Then we will start to build the Community Centre itself. However, we can't do this without funds, so in 2011 we will be embarking on an ambitious fundraising program.

I am pleased that Annette is back in Uganda as she will keep close control of our growing number of projects over there, and it is great for her to see the fruits of her labour. I am also delighted that Eunice Kawuma, a friend of Annette, is going to support us over here, given her intimate knowledge of Uganda.



Sincere greetings to you all at this festive time of year and I do hope that you will continue to give your support to Children of Uganda (UK) – BSUF.

John Faith - Chairman



Christian Network Uganda Conference at Richmond Hill St. Andrew's Church in Bournemouth in November

Children of Uganda (UK)-BSUF helped to host the first CNU Conference in the South of England. Revd. Martin Ambler kindly allowed us to use the large

lounge at Richmond Hill St Andrew's RUC for the day. The church is a valued supporter of BSUF having provided funds for the building of pews for St. Mary's Church in Butansi, and kindly donated a St. James Holy Bible for the congregation. Also the Bournemouth church and congregation now supports seven children through their schooling.

The CNU Meeting brought 17 different small charities and organisations working in Uganda together – for a day of relating and sharing experiences. All agreed it was a hugely worthwhile event and attendees will now network together on a regular basis – all to the benefit of the people and children in Uganda.



CNU is the brainchild of Rhona Marshall MBE, who started the network up over 10 years ago. However, this

is the first time it has been held outside Macclesfield – and so this meeting attracted a different set of charities operating in Uganda. The CNU network is expanding and it was fascinating to see that many of these different charities work in the same areas in Uganda. Already BSUF is reaping the benefits of attending this conference, gaining tips re. drilling boreholes, crop planting and working with local building materials, as well as making a very useful contact for sourcing much needed medical supplies.



Follow up to David Brunetti's visit to Butansi in July 2010

David Brunetti is the professional photographer who recently visited Uganda and Butansi village. It is intended to collaborate with David next year to organise a fundraiser to showcase his magnificent photographs and help raise funds for BSUF.

This photograph was recently selected to be part of The Taylor Wessing Exhibition at The National Portrait Gallery in London, which was a great honour for David and recognition of his work.



We need your continued support:

Do please talk about us to your family and friends and think about ways that you can give us more 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 again for your support.

Contact Jon Exton at: jon@buyemba.org

PLEASE MAKE A DONATION:

www.mycharitypage.com/childrenofugandaukBSUF

or visit our website on:

www.buyemba.org



