



www.bananatreeproject.org

Quarterly Newsletter: April 2011

After a hectic start to the year the children are now fully settled and working hard at their studies. They are heading towards their end of semester exams at Sunrise, Lake and Tabasamu secondary schools. With the rainy season comes colder nights so the renovation work carried out at the orphanages last July will prove invaluable over the coming months.

Developments at Mt Zion Orphanage



The children of Mt Zion Orphanage have been in their new home for three months. The building was constructed as a result of fundraising by St Albans School students, with the sixth formers themselves helping to paint the building during their July 2010 visit. Kids Aid Tanzania has since funded the connection of the orphanage to the mains water supply to provide

running water for washing and cooking. Following a visit to the orphanage by trustees of KAT in January, the charity has agreed to fund the installation of ceiling boards, which will help keep mosquitoes out, outside plastering, which will help protect the brick work from both sun and rain, and doors for the twin bedrooms and lounge area to add privacy. KAT will also provide nine new bunk beds. While there is still work to be done, the orphanage has been transformed from a cramped, dark house in the centre of Mwanza to a light, spacious, safe home in the rural outskirts.



Plymouth College fundraising

Following in the footsteps of students at other UK schools, Plymouth College students have so far raised almost £1000 for the BTP, largely to fund Asha Hassan through her Form Three studies at Sunrise Secondary. Two Year 7 students dressed as bananas to compete in a local fun run, while the non-uniform day and cake sale proved highly successful. The Music Department has also offered to donate its concert collections to the BTP.



Updates

I am very grateful to Fay David for her enormous help with running the BTP over the last five years. Her advice and insight has been central to ensuring that the BTP has achieved as much as it has. While she will remain involved in the BTP in the future, much of her liaising and organisational role will now be taken on by Ruth and Barry Clement who have returned to Mwanza to new roles as head teachers. Their experience and knowledge of life in Mwanza and their understanding of the Tanzanian education system will prove invaluable in getting things done!

Thank you

There are many people who support the BTP by donating on a monthly basis and these funds are essential in ensuring that the charity's work can continue. Many children sponsored by the BTP would not be in school without these donations. There remains a great deal that can be done to support the children through their schooling and develop the very basic facilities at the orphanages, such as adding windows to keep the rain out. Thank you for your support and please do continue to support the BTP throughout 2011.



Ed Beavington

Registered with the England & Wales Charity Commission (1116669)
Account Name: *The Banana Tree Project*, Account Number: 000 297 00, Sort Code: 30 95 37
Bank: Lloyds TSB, 18 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1RW, UK
IBAN: GB87 LOYD 3095 3700 0297 00 SWIFT code: LOYD GB 21121