

# The Banana Tree Project

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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

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## Overview

The BTP is now embarking on its third year of work. The project started in November 2006 with the sponsorship of ten children through secondary school and vocational courses. From January 2009, we will be supporting 33 children through secondary school and a further 40 through primary school. These children would not be able to continue with their education without donations from many individuals and without the variety of fundraising activities that have been held. On behalf of the sponsored children, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the project over the last two years. Many children are facing wonderful new opportunities as a direct result of these donations. Please do continue to support the BTP in 2009.

## The Current Crop

Paulo Matendo, Daudi Baraka and Donald Mussa continue to study hard at Lake Secondary School. They have recently sat their Form Two National Exams and we await their results from Dar es Salaam. After a sound start, William Daudi found the academic courses too difficult and has now left Lake. We will explore other opportunities for him. The BTP pays for all tuition & exam fees, uniforms, shoes and school lunches for these students. Amina Ramathan and Jamila Juma have both successfully passed their vocational courses. They both gained a C grade for tailoring and an A grade for cookery, although their English grades were not so strong! We await the certificates for the 3 mechanics boys.

I am in regular email contact with the Form Two tutor, Mr Ager, which helps me keep a close eye on the progress of the 11 Sunrise School students. Some of the children have struggled, particularly with their Maths and English, highlighting the big jump from primary to secondary school, but all will progress to the next Form. I am organising some free extra tuition via students at the local international school to help them this year. Maduhu Nkinga gained the highest grades, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in his class. Perhaps the best results, though, were achieved by Benedict Daud who has been unwell a great deal over the last year. When I saw him in March, he had both malaria and typhoid. He has done very well to earn a C grade overall.

## New Secondary Students

We will be supporting 9 students from Fonelisco through Form One this year. A further 6 students from Hands of Mercy Orphanage will be sponsored through secondary school. St Albans School students redecorated this orphanage in August 2007. Pictured below from left to right, they are Ghati Peter, Marwa Joseph, Upendo Towo, Irene Joseph, Joshua Makala and Cypriner Nyaimwamu. Joshua's mother died in childbirth and he has been living at the orphanage for many years. The other children's parents died of AIDS and they have been living at Hands of Mercy since 2001. They have made good use of the classrooms (and football goals) built for them by the UK students in 2007.



## Primary School Students

The BTP will once again ensure that all the primary school students from Fonelisco, Mt Zion and Hands of Mercy Orphanages are clothed in uniforms without too many holes and have shoes that protect their feet! We will also fund the school lunches at Illemela Primary School. The recent increase in food prices across East Africa has left the orphanages struggling to feed their children. The primary school children will receive a bowl of porridge for breakfast and rice & beans for lunch every school day.