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Quarterly Newsletter: July 2010

St Albans School Projects

The Founding Objects of *The Banana Tree Project* are “to assist in the relief of poverty, hardship, sickness and distress of street children and orphans in Mwanza, Tanzania and to help with their education”. With this in the forefront of their minds, sixth form students at St Albans School in the UK have been fundraising over the last 12 months to complete a series of renovation projects in Mwanza to help the children at three orphanages and a local primary school. These projects are above and beyond the main work of the BTP which is supporting children through their education. This newsletter outlines what the sixth formers hope to achieve when they visit Mwanza at the end of July.

Ilemela Primary School

The BTP has worked closely with Mr Lousaka (pictured below) at Ilemela Primary School over the last few years. We have equipped many of the children with uniforms, books and stationery and we funded a meals programme in 2009. However, the basic facilities are very limited and the UK sixth formers will plaster, cement and paint the classrooms. They will provide classroom furniture and construct a new toilet block to prevent the spread of disease. The UK students will transform the school for the benefit of all its children from the local community.



Watoto Wa Africa Orphanage

The BTP is sponsoring seven children at Watoto Wa Africa. The orphanage (below) receives support from another UK charity, *Kids Aid Tanzania*, which is helping to fund the renovation of Watoto Wa Africa. The SAS sixth formers will paint the dormitories, plaster the walls, install a large drinking water tank and new windows, buy new mattresses and mosquito nets and generally renovate the entire orphanage.



Mt Zion Orphanage

The biggest project that the sixth formers will be funding is the construction of a dormitory at a new site for Mt Zion Orphanage. The orphanage has to leave its current rented building at the end of the year, so the sixth formers have funded new accommodation at a large, rural site. Much of the building will have been completed by mid July (pictured below) leaving the sixth formers to paint, plaster and landscape the site at the end of July.



Hands of Mercy

SAS sixth formers renovated Hands of Mercy Orphanage in July 2007. In July 2010, the new group, some brothers of the 2007 students, will replace worn out equipment and install a water tank.

Thank you and good luck

Beyond this renovation work, some of the students will be sponsoring orphanage children through their secondary education in 2010 and 2011. They are very much looking forward to meeting the children and staff at the orphanages and primary school. I hope to report back on the renovation work they complete in the October 2010 newsletter.

Ed Beavington