

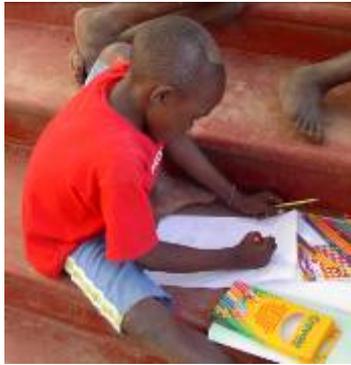
The Banana Tree Project

Registered with the England & Wales Charity Commission (1116669)

Newsletter: May 2007

Street Kid reunited with his family

The Banana Tree Project provides funding for street children and orphans in Mwanza. So far, all the



funding has been used to help children at Fonelisco Orphanage get into primary, secondary and vocational schools. However, at the beginning of May, we were informed that a young boy that we used to work with on the

streets had been reunited with his family by the overrun Social Services. Azizi is now 9 years old and has only just started school, having spent two years on the streets of Mwanza. He was always a cheerful and fun boy, but his father had become sick



and his mother had left home, so Azizi went to find his fortune of the streets. Since then, his father has gone to live with his uncle in Dar es Salaam, but is not expected to recover. Azizi is now living with his grandparents in the shanty town on the edge of Mwanza. His

grandparents are delighted to have him, but as they have no income they are struggling to cater for him.

Banana Tree Project funds have bought him two school uniforms (one

slightly bigger that he can keep safe for when he's older), school shoes, a school bag and other school kit. We also made a one off donation of food that was gratefully received. Azizi is now in Standard One at the local Primary School and is enjoying life, with plenty of friends. He never wants to be on the streets again, and hopefully the Banana Tree Project has helped to ensure that he has somewhere safe to live, learn and be loved.



Ibrahim wins place at a government school



Ibrahim Netto, a 12 year old at Fonelisco, has been awarded a place at a new government secondary school and started there in mid-May. Ibrahim had been studying at the local primary school with many of the other Fonelisco children, but because he was consistently getting top marks in all his subjects, the teachers recommended him to start secondary school straightaway. The government schools only accept the brighter students and charge a fraction of the fees that other secondary schools charge. He will have to work hard to catch up with the work, but all students at the school have started together (the school has only just been finished) and so the teachers are providing extra lessons to ensure the students finish Form One.

St Albans School to help with projects

Twenty-seven students and staff from St Albans School in the UK are to visit some of the projects supported by the Banana Tree Project in July. They will be helping to build and decorate one of the orphanages in Mwanza and are currently raising funds to support these projects. We look forward to working with them when they arrive.

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