

# The Banana Tree Project

Registered with the England & Wales Charity Commission (1116669)

Newsletter: November 2007

## One Year On...

The Banana Tree Project was registered with the England and Wales Charity Commission in November 2006, so this newsletter is an opportunity to reflect on the achievements so far, and the targets for 2008.

Esther Emmanuel, William Daudi, Paulo Matendo, Daudi Baraka and Donald Mussa have all completed their first year at Lake Secondary School as Form One students. Each year of school that they complete gives them a better chance of becoming self-sufficient. Ibrahim Netto has completed his first year at Kirumba Secondary School, having been promoted from Primary School.

Amina Ramathan and Jamila Juma have completed the first year of their Tailoring course. They have one year to go before becoming qualified tailors.

Dotto Daudi, Yakobo Willson and Matendo Msafiri have completed the first year of their Mechanics course hoping to qualify as mechanics at the end of 2008.



None of these children would be at school or college without the Banana Tree Project.

The remaining 45 children at Fonelisco have each received school uniforms, shoes, school bags and school materials to allow them either to start Primary School, or continue with it. They will receive their end of year reports in December which will hopefully allow them all to progress to their next year 'standard'.

## Plans for 2008

The first aim for 2008 is to ensure that each of the Fonelisco children at secondary school and on a vocational course is able to continue with their education. Course fees for schools and colleges will not be confirmed until December, but this will be the priority for Banana Tree Project funding.

The second aim for 2008 is to ensure that the nine Fonelisco children who will be finishing Primary School in December are able to start the appropriate academic or vocational course in January. Each of these children would love to go to secondary school, but we will have to



wait for their reports in December to see whether they will be accepted.

The third aim for 2008 is to ensure that each of the Fonelisco primary school children has a respectable school uniform, including shoes and other materials, to allow them to continue their primary education. Ill-equipped children are not allowed in school.

The fourth aim for 2008 is to provide assistance to a second orphanage in Mwanza, called *Hands of Mercy*. In July 2007, 23 students from St Albans School in the UK worked through *The Banana Tree Project* to renovate this home for 45 orphans. They provided a wide range of materials including mosquito nets, mattresses and clothing. They also fitted out 3 classroom areas with desks and books. With continued fund-raising by the UK students, the Banana Tree Project hopes to provide school uniforms and shoes for these children (aged 5 – 16), and fund secondary schooling in the future.



## Mwanza Administration

I returned to the UK in August having spent two years living in Mwanza. I continue to directly administer the charity, but am grateful to Fay McNamara for her help on the ground. A former colleague of mine at the Isamilo School, Mwanza, she now works full time as a volunteer for another charity in Mwanza. She has done a great deal of work so far, with no financial benefit, and has been my eyes and ears in Mwanza – thank you. I will continue to provide newsletters whenever there is news to report. I hope to return to Mwanza in 2008.

## Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Banana Tree Project so far. Every contribution from £2 (a school uniform) to £80 (annual fees for the Tailoring Course) has directly benefited orphaned children living in Mwanza. A wide range of people in the UK, US, Australia and Tanzania have contributed – thank you. 2008 will be another busy year.

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