

The Banana Tree Project

Registered with the England & Wales Charity Commission (1116669)

Quarterly Newsletter: October 2008

Academic Update



Tanzanian children are completing their final preparations for the end of year exams. For children in Standard Seven, the final year of primary school, this may mean qualifying for secondary school. However, there is no automatic progress to secondary school. Once exam results and school reports are available, The Banana Tree Project will liaise with the relevant primary school teachers and orphanage staff to decide which students would best be able to cope with the significant academic jump from primary to secondary. For example, children are taught in Kiswahili at primary school, but in English at secondary school, so the children's English needs to be good enough to understand the lessons! The Banana Tree Project will only support children who will be able to cope with the Form One course. Where possible, we will look for vocational options for students deemed not able to cope with secondary school. Once reports and results

are available for the secondary school students, we will once again be able to decide whether they would be able to cope with the next year of study. Any student who does not progress through to the next Form will have benefitted enormously from their secondary school studies and stand a better chance of moving into employment than if they had not had this opportunity. Every extra year of schooling puts young people in a better position for gaining employment.



Fundraising efforts

On behalf of The Banana Tree Project, I am very grateful to everyone who has supported our work over the last year. A number of people contribute on a monthly basis and this forms the core of our funding. Beyond these regular contributions, there are a number



of one off contributions that have been very generous. In particular, I would like to mention the fundraising activities of the Year 7 & 8 tutor groups at St Albans, for example tutor group 2-2 at St Albans, pictured above, who will be sponsoring several children next year as a result of their sponsored run in October 2008. The sponsored runs completed by William Beavington (Great North Run) and Chris Fox (Langley Tough Ten) have also raised hundreds of pounds which will further our ability to support disadvantaged children at orphanages in Mwanza. From my constant communication with the orphanages, please be assured that the children are very grateful for the opportunities they have been given. Whilst extending thanks, I would also like to recognise the continued work of Fay McNamara (left) who works full time as Education Officer for Bridge2Aid in Mwanza, but also does a great deal of

administration, record-keeping (and overcoming of bureaucracy) for The Banana Tree Project.

Charity Commission website

The Banana Tree Project is registered with the England and Wales Charity Commission and is listed on their website. You are welcome to visit the site www.charity-commission.co.uk and take a look at the charity details and most recent accounts.

Ed Beavington
Project Coordinator

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