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Quarterly Newsletter: October 2016

Ten Years On

The Banana Tree Project was created in November 2006 after a group of enthusiastic young UK teachers had spent 18 months working with street children and orphans in Mwanza. It was clear there was real scope for relatively small sums to make a great difference to the lives of a small number of children. Since 2006, hundreds of children have benefited, from receiving primary school uniforms to being sponsored through secondary and tertiary education. Without BTP funding these children would not have finished primary school, let alone achieve their range of academic and vocational qualifications.



Donald, Mary, Marco, Mazera and Yuseph

In 2006, these five children were living at an orphanage on the outskirts of Mwanza. They attended primary school as funds and uniforms allowed, but had no prospects of school beyond Standard 7. As a direct result of BTP funding, Donald completes his Science Teaching degree through the University of Dar in November 2016, Mary finishes her Business degree in Dar in November 2016, Marco starts his final year of Business at Arusha, ready to graduate in November 2017 and Mazera continues his Medicine degree in Dar, due to complete in 2020. It's a long cry from struggling to complete primary school to graduating from university, and this has simply been achieved through a wide range of donations and fundraising activities through the BTP. Marco has recently completed an internship and achieved a mix of A and B grades in his second year exams. Yuseph achieved a Division II in his Form VI courses in July 2016. All five fully intend to do what they can to support other disadvantaged young people in due course.

Sadicki, Ngusa and Julius

These three walked to their local primary school together back in 2007 (pictured here in Feb 2007) and inspired each other to work hard and achieve their best. Julius was appointed Head Boy of the primary school, Ngusa rarely

stopped smiling and playing football while Sadicki attacked his studies with a mix of flair and frustration. Many years on, they are finishing their sixth form studies together in Mwanza and looking forward to the next step.

Their Form VI national exams (A-Levels) will be sat in May 2017. Sadicki is aiming for a Division I while Ngusa and Julius hope for Division II or III. This is a long way from hoping to finish primary school.

Steven, Little Yuseph and Chacha

All three have struggled with secondary school at times. Two of them had to start again as they adapted to the discipline expected at secondary school, having spent much of their young lives either on the streets or living in orphanages. All three are extremely bright and look set to score highly in national exams. Steven and Yuseph have already achieved Division II results while Chacha scored Division I. There are hundreds of children like these on Tanzanian streets. These three have been lucky enough to have had the opportunity to prove what they can achieve.

Barry, Ruth, Brian, Charlie and Leah

The BTP would not have been able to support these young people without the commitment of these international volunteers. Through a mix of administering, fundraising and donating, the BTP has been kept alive by these five people over the years. The BTP children owe a debt of gratitude to their commitment.

Thank you

Thank you once again to everyone who has contributed to the BTP. Thank you to the BTP Trustees, to Kathryn and Cam in Australia, to Mr and Mrs Noble, to Mr Palmer in Plymouth, to Miss Baxter in St Albans, to Mrs Byrne in Redbourn, to Sarah Phelps, to students at Edinburgh University, to Affirmation in the US and to the Rotary Clubs, children, parents and supporters around the world.

Ed Beavington

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