

Ugive2uganda

UK Registered Charity No. 1115196

...in partnership with

East Uganda Youth Music Foundation

Ugandan registered NGO No. S.5914/8841

Autumn Newsletter 2014

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter for 2014.

The best way of supporting young people in need in a developing country is not through gifts but through investment in the children themselves. This means helping them with their education and skills so that they can obtain useful and decent jobs. Nothing can be achieved if the youth of the country are not equipped with the skills and training that they need for useful employment. This is why we work so hard to try and find sponsors for children in our project.

We channel the efforts to find sponsors for our children through our youth music program. When we see young people come to our music rehearsals as a team of musicians we get to know their abilities, characters and circumstances very well indeed. We quickly weed out those individuals who don't want to make an effort themselves and just want handouts. For those who only want money, or who have no respect for authority, or are not willing to work as part of a team, we wish them well in their future and send them on their way. There are so many deserving children, and we have such limited resources, that we try and help those young people who will work hard themselves and make a real contribution to the future of Uganda.

Through our child sponsorship scheme we try our best to help children either complete their schooling or, increasingly, try and support them through further education. However, the challenge is that college or vocational courses are usually more expensive than normal school fees.

But we need more sponsors!

We have made a huge difference to so many children through this policy of youth development. Many children are doing really well in their education while others are learning new and sustainable skills for the future.

Here are some of our successes:





Hassad is studying for his diploma in nursing at Islamic University in Mbale



Rogers is in the first year of his certificate in building and construction at Mbale Technical Institute.



Innocent is studying for his diploma in catering at CCP vocational school in Mbale



Hussein is studying for his certificate in electrical installation at CCP vocational school here in Mbale



Zeus is studying for her degree in communications at Islamic University in Mbale



Benjamin is studying for his certificate in electrical installation at CCP vocational school here in Mbale



Martin is studying for his degree in statistics at Islamic University in Mbale

All these children are making great progress through their membership of Mbale Schools Band and the benefits that have resulted from their determination, hard work and dedication.

Half a dozen children have enjoyed making music so much that they have chosen to create their own music projects and have created bands in Iganga, Luwero, Busia, Kapchorwa, and Kampala. Others want to start their own bands but have no sponsors - and therefore no funding - and so they can't begin yet.

So we are still appealing for compassionate people to come forward and help with support for school children or students who want to go on to college or vocational training, or who want to become musicians. We also have a number of children who just need help for one or two years.

It makes such a difference to so many children in Uganda. Almost half our sponsored children have lost at least one parent. Many of them are despairingly trying to complete their education without money for school fees or books.

Please let me know if you are interested in sponsoring a needy child in the scheme. If you can't afford it the best way that you can help is by telling your friends about the program and asking if they would consider sponsoring a child at £15 a month for a child at school or £20 a month for a child in further education. They can download a leaflet from the website at www.ugive2uganda.org.

Music Program

Thanks to the generosity of a few special supporters our new Music Centre is almost complete. It's the first purpose-built music facility for performing in Eastern Uganda. So now we have our wonderful arena where the full band of 100 players can practice, and our cultural dancers can rehearse.



Alongside the arena we've 75% completed the building where we will store our instruments, uniforms, music, costumes and where children can play in small practice rooms. But we've run out of money and need about £3,000 to purchase the doors, windows and complete the plastering. Even any small donations to this project would be so welcome.



You can't imagine how important it is for our project to have its own permanent home that we own (not rented). It will be our base forever and somewhere that we can develop our program from, and where people can come and visit and see what we are trying to achieve.

You can see the progress that we have made musically here at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRJidFYx8M8>

or search youtube for 'Mbale Schools Band – Music Centre tour and Knight Templar performance'.

We can't just teach Africans English-style brass music so it's important for us to keep Ugandan cultural dancing and traditions alive and flourishing. We make sure that we continue to develop our dance troupe and now have more than 30 dancers who love to wear their costumes and perform at public functions.



It's worth reminding everyone that besides teaching positive values through youth music, the band also receives money when they play for customers at public events, weddings, graduations, and so on. The income that we receive from these functions is shared between the children, the teachers, and band expenses (uniforms, repairs, music, etc). It's so difficult for children to earn pocket money in Uganda and even the small money that they get makes such a difference. The photo below shows us distributing school books recently using the money earned from playing at holiday celebration.



Finally, can I offer my wholehearted gratitude to so many for all the support that we continue to receive. We couldn't do anything without the help of our donors and child sponsors. A huge thank you to all of you and the difference that your compassion makes to so many in East Africa.

Philip Monk
Founder - [ugive2uganda](http://ugive2uganda.org)

11c Goodwin Rd
London
W12 9JN

P.O. Box 47
Mbale
Uganda

Tel. 0780 193 0404 (in UK)

00256 7731 46983 (in Uganda)

Email: ugive2uganda1@aol.com

Website: www.ugive2uganda.org and www.euymf.org

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/East-Uganda-Youth-Music-Foundation/388014301288777?fref=ts>