

UGAIRISH project

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 4
SUMMER 2013

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Thank you for your continued support and donations for the Ugalrish Project and its continued work in Uganda. In this fourth issue of our newsletter, you can find the report from the volunteer trip 2012, personal updates about individuals who have impacted our hearts over the years, as well as our planned trip in the second half of 2013.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In 2011 Ugalrish were motivated to build a main hall come classroom for the students at the farm school. A 3rd classroom was required but also an examination hall – if the school could provide an exam centre, then Kamuzinda Farm School could be registered. So a builder was found and the building project started in June 2011. However, due to lack of support and funds it only got half built – flooring, plastering, doors and windows still remained to be done. In March 2013 Ugalrish received enough funds to finish the project. At time of print the floor has been laid and windows and doors ordered. Hopefully the students will be able to use their own exam centre for their final exams in December 2013.

A Ugalrish volunteer trip is being planned for early October 2013. We hope to continue with our water harvesting programme, paint the exterior wall of Kilkenny house and tile the floors and do further outreach work in the community including teaching agriculture, animal husbandry and hygiene skills.

EVENTS

Fund-raising is in progress and our annual Barrow walk is scheduled for the bank holiday Monday on 5th August. Please join us for this fun outing and help raise funds for the poorest in the communities around the district of Masaka.

DONATIONS

A facility is available on our website for online donations, and all of it goes straight to Uganda! Find it at www.ugairishproject.org/help

VOLUNTEER TRIP 2012

In June 2012 30 volunteers arrived in Kamuzinda Children's Village to build a new home for 20 orphans. The team included teenagers, college students, builders, IT workers, a doctor, a nurse, a social worker and teachers. The ages ranged from 15 to 78!

The idea to build a new home for 20 orphans came about in June 2011 when some of the volunteers visited Meldura House. This is one of the 9 orphan homes in Kamuzinda Children's Village but it is situated a long way from the other homes. It is a half hours walk from the schools and clinic and the children are very isolated and miss out on many activities and visits from volunteers.

Throughout the year fundraising events were organised by all the 2012 volunteers including the students in Kilkenny College, and a local hairdresser who ran 6 marathons in aid of Ugalrish. With the amount raised we were able to draw up the house plans, have 3 builders volunteer their services and on the 4th June 2012 the building of the new Meldura House began.

A tremendous effort and commitment was made by everyone to get the house nearly complete in only 11 days. The team worked tirelessly in the tropical heat from 7am to 6pm every day. It was amazing to see how quickly things seemed to happen – foundations dug, ground levelled, bricks unloaded and stacked, cement mixed, walls built, doors made, roof trusses assembled and lifted onto the roof and finally galvanised sheets nailed in place. As well as a house a kitchen and toilet/bathroom were also built by the team. Unfortunately we ran out of time and not everything got finished but a Ugandan builder was employed to finish the roof, plaster the walls and put in the floors.

It was finally finished in November 2012 but Maama Milly and the children had to wait until after Christmas before they could move into their new home as funds had to be raised to provide beds, bedding and essential household items.

The new Meldura House was renamed Kilkenny House in honour of the students of Kilkenny College who raised half of the funds for this ambitious building project.

OTHER PROJECTS

During our stay in Kamuzinda 5 of the volunteers spent a day teaching bible stories, crafts and songs to all the classes in the Kindergarten and Primary schools. The team donated exercise books, pencils and pens to every student in the school. The Farm school also received gifts including material, wool and knitting needles for the sewing room and the soccer team received a football and extra equipment.

As in previous years the highlight of the trip was the community outreach programme. This is when the volunteers head out into the bush on boda bodas (taxi motor bikes) along very narrow dusty roads through banana and pineapple plantations visiting very needy impoverished families. The local Pastor led one of the trips and a County Councillor led another. All in all 30 homes were visited and given a food pack, plates, cups, seeds, blankets and clothes.



1: The old Meldura House
2: Construction underway
3: The team outside the completed house

ROSE

The volunteers were all delighted to see Rose's new house which was built by Ugairish funds during the year. She is clearly very proud of her new abode and spread out mats to welcome us. The pig sty and pit latrine the volunteers built the previous year were in good order and the pigs had produced thus providing Rose with an income. We were honoured with the gift of a cock, pineapples and bananas.

HAVE MERCY ON MERCY

Mercy is a little 9 year girl who lives in Bukunde village near Kamuzinda. She has cerebral palsy and is unable to walk. However, she has good verbal skills and has use of her left hand. Because of her disability Mercy couldn't go to school. Both her parents are alive and she has 3 sisters but she is regarded as a curse on the family – she was found sitting on her own outside her house.

On our return to Ireland a sponsor was found for Mercy, so she now attends a special school in Kampala and is doing very well. She is very happy and has made lots of friends – she even won the wheelchair dancing competition at the school sports day!

ESTHER & DDEMBE

Esther and Ddembe have severe and profound disabilities and are being sponsored by 2 Irish families. They attend Opening Doors Special School in Kampala and have made very good progress. Ddembe is beginning to walk and show an interest in his environment and Esther is learning to stand and use signs to communicate. With the care and attention they have been receiving they have both come a long way from when they were found 4 and 5 years ago.

Charity Number: CHY 18988

Chairperson: Siobhán Kinsella Secretary: Róisín Buckley Treasurer: Jonathan Jacob
Committee: Wendy Jacob, Austin Kinsella, Tom King, Joan Thompson, Eric Stilwell