

UGAIRISH project

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NEWSLETTER ISSUE 5
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FROM THE CHAIR

JCB, Ugandan style.

This is our 5th annual Ugalrish newsletter and I am very pleased that the charity is still making a difference in the lives of some of the most needy communities in Southern Uganda. Having spent 7 years supporting the farm, orphans and schools in Kamuzinda Children's Village, Ugalrish have now moved further into the surrounding communities. During our feeding programmes we saw that there was even greater poverty in the more remote areas and so we have shifted our focus to some of these communities. You can read about them further in this issue.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, donations and sponsorships. Every cent raised goes directly to helping the work of the Ugalrish charity in Uganda - there are no salaries, no bonuses.

SIOBHAN KINSELLA, (CHAIRPERSON UGAIRISH CHARITY.)

UPDATES

KILKENNY HOUSE

In 2012, Kilkenny House (below) was built by 30 Ugairish volunteers in the village of Kamuzinda. It is now home to 25 orphan teenagers and house mother Maama Milly.

Last year more work was done by volunteers which included funding the tiling of the main room floor, painting the exterior, hanging doors, constructing shelving and repairing the gutters. This year we hope to have enough funds to install a solar panel for lighting and make improvements to the toilet block.

Painting Kilkenny House.



Repairs to the latrine at Maama Rose's.

ROSE AND HER FAMILY

Rose is a deserted wife with 6 children and no means of support. A house was built for Rose in 2011 with Ugairish funds. Volunteers built a pigsty for her and provided two pigs.

She is making a small living from the pigs and with the help of Ugairish volunteers last year she has established a vegetable garden. They also built her a new kitchen and replaced the floor of the latrine (above). Irish families are sponsoring three of her children's school fees.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Ddembe and Esther have severe and profound disabilities and are in full time care in Opening Doors in Kampala. Mercy, who has cerebal palsy, is doing very well in a special school, also in Kampala and has moved up a class this term.

Without the sponsorships that these vulnerable children are receiving they would either have died by now or been severely neglected.

PROJECTS



Houses at Baale Landing Site

BAALE LANDING SITE

Baale Landing site (above) is a remote village situated on the shores of Lake Victoria. It's inhabitants are mostly refugees from Tanzania and Rwanda and deserted wives from the larger towns in Uganda. They live in houses made from scrap iron and timber and their income is derived from fishing up and down the lake. There is no functioning bore hole, sanitation or medical facilities and the majority of the children don't go to school. The land is very arid so no crops have been grown and it is also not suitable for rearing animals.

These people are in dire need of support and Ugalrish have undertaken to help in whatever way they can with the resources they have. So far a truck has been organised to bring women and children to a medical centre each month, engineers from the USA have looked at putting in a well. 15 children have been sponsored to enable them attend School. In April it is planned to sow a very beneficial crop called Moringa Oleifera which is suitable for arid soils.

KITCHENS AND ECO BRIQUETTES

The June 2014 volunteer group plan to undertake two specific projects. One is to build kitchens for families living in the bush and a second is the making of Eco Briquettes from waste materials.

SPONSORSHIPS

There is a great need for school sponsorships as there is no free education in the area. Most families living in the bush cannot afford the annual school fees of €30 in addition to paying for uniforms and scholastic materials. Also there are some very needy families who require monthly food parcels to supplement their subsistence living. €10 a month will feed a family of 4.

Ugalrish is appealing to their supporters for sponsors for these needy children and families.

HYGIENE EDUCATION

Hygiene education is another project for Ugalrish volunteers. We want to provide, and teach the use of, facilities for hand washing after visiting the latrine.

GROWING THEIR OWN VEGETABLES

Last year volunteers brought out packets of vegetable seeds to be given to the communities but it was soon realised that they hadn't seen a packet of seeds before and didn't know how to sow them!

A very pleasant few days was spent teaching the local ladies how to sow seeds. It is planned to buy more seeds this year and continue teaching seed sowing.



2013 VOLUNTEER TRIP

JOHN'S MEMORIES

This was my first visit to the continent of Africa and Uganda. Like many things in life, no matter how much you hear and read about something, nothing prepares you for the real experience of being there and living amongst the people.

On arrival in Uganda, we were met by our contact there Apollo who does great work on the ground. Through his organisational skills we can always be assured that each volunteer trip is a productive one. When we arrived at our destination in southern Uganda close to the village of Bukunda just south of Masaka we were greeted by the locals who gave us a very friendly and warm welcome.

We awoke each morning at 6 a.m. to the sound of the dawn chorus of African birds. The day starts early in Uganda. As most houses don't have electricity, they take maximum advantage of daylight.

Water and water related activities take up a big part of every day. Our first task each morning was to gather up the jerry cans and head off to the local village of Bukunda and fill them with water at the local water supply. Ugalrish have provided manual pumps and rainwater harvesting systems as part of their project work.

Our work included building a kitchen for one family, repairing a latrine, visiting a lake village beside lake Victoria and people in the bush, planting seeds, visiting orphanages, delivering food parcels and hygiene items to people living in the "bush".

Kilkenny House was our work station for a number of days. We painted the exterior of the building, fitted doors, shelves and curtains, purchased tiles and materials to tile the main floor, carried out repairs on gutters supplying rain water, drew sand from the local sand pit. The sand had to be dug out by hand and loaded onto a truck.

We have poor people and poverty in Ireland, but not as bad or as many affected as in Uganda. It's like everything in life. It's all relative. All Ugalrish volunteers pay for the cost of



Planting vegetable seeds at Kititi.

their own flights, accommodation and meals. Through the great work of Siobhan, Austin and all the team, all money raised through fundraising and donations is used for the purpose for which it is intended. Ugalrish is run 100% by volunteers with no payments or expenses paid to anybody, something that attracted Triona and I to volunteer.

When we gave a gift to one young boy he was very thankful and said to us "I have nothing to give you but God will give you whatever you wish for" This is what summed up Uganda for me.

2014 VOLUNTEERS

There are 2 volunteer trips planned for this year. The first is in June and the second in September. There are still vacancies in the September trip.

Email Siobhankinsella1eircom.net if you are interested in joining the team.



Ddembe and Siobhan.

DDEMBE'S PROGRESS

While on a bush feeding programme in 2008, 2 volunteers came across a young boy with severe physical disabilities locked in a shed. He was naked, very traumatised and hungry. He was about 7 years old but appeared much younger, he couldn't walk and had no speech. The volunteers were moved to tears at the sight of this pathetic neglected child and quickly set about the process of sponsoring him in a special needs school in Kampala.

Over the past 5 years Ddembe has thrived in the loving care and attention he is receiving in Opening Doors, an orphanage and special needs school in Kampala, and is beginning to take a few steps unaided. He is a much happier boy and has made great friendships in his new environment.

FUNDRAISING

Bag packing in Dunne's Stores Kilkenny and a table quiz in the Brog Maker Kilkenny have been 2 very successful fundraisers so far this year. Thank you to both Dunnes Stores and the Brog Maker for their support of the Ugalrish Project.

Further fundraisers include a charity 11 a side soccer match, a raffle and the annual Barrow Walk. For details see 'Events' on the Ugalrish facebook page.

Charity Number: CHY 18988

Chairperson: Siobhán Kinsella Secretary: Róisín Buckley Treasurer: Fran Stilwell
Committee: Austin Kinsella, Joan Thompson, Eric Stilwell