



'Prevention is Better than Cure'
Charity No: 1115103

NEWSLETTER

No: 001

MARCH 2009

Welcome to our first proper newsletter - not before time I hear you say! I am sorry it has taken so long, but up until recently we have felt able to verbally communicate what is going on in Uganda to most people on a fairly regular basis. However, we have now grown to the point where there is so much more going on and too many people spread far and wide for that to be possible, so it is time to be more organised.

Brief History.....

We started out as a small fund raising group in 1999 (Luwero Medical Centre Appeal) and built a clinic at the 'African Outreach Academy' in Luwero, Uganda, following a visit to the area by Coventry fire-fighter John 'Nobby' Clarke to teach First Aid. The charitable status of the 'African Children's Choir' was used for a number of years to raise funds for the building, to support a full time nurse 'Gladys' and to pay for medicines. We were also asked to support the educational needs of a few children from poor families.

'Gilead Health Development' – Charitable Status.....

Our experiences during these formative years included witnessing a few health seminars and we began to develop a new sense of direction towards prevention education, coupled with the reality of the growing unaffordable medical needs of the community. The old saying of 'Prevention is better than Cure' was certainly beginning to ring true. It had become apparent, that in order to develop, we would need to seek our own charitable status so in June 2006 we registered Gilead Health Development as a charity in the UK.

Gilead Health Development Charity - Trustees;

John 'Nobby' Clarke- Chair
Bryan Williams - Treasurer
Rev Richard Cooke
Rev Steve Burch
Carol Clarke
Mary Williams
Martyn Dalman
Rosie Dalman
Chris Reid - Secretary (co-opted)

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Gilead Community Hall – Luwero

In order to facilitate health education for this poor rural African community it has become necessary to provide infrastructure in the form of a large community hall (30M (100') x 20M (60')). In addition this venue, once completed will have some commercial uses, which will help to bring a degree of self-sustainability to this project.

Luwero is a growing town, the surrounding area is filled with people and there is simply a lack of gathering places that are multi-functional in nature. Gilead Community Hall will provide a place that can be both rented for a fee and also a place where community development and health education can take place.

Proposed Uses.....

Health Education Seminars

Medical Care such as immunisations

Distribution Centre for various needs

Community Functions of all kinds

NGO meetings enabling agencies to gather a large group of people

Local Commissioner Meetings

Weddings & other celebrations i.e. birthdays, graduations and more.

Cinema, Theatre venue

Indoor sports venue

As at March 2009 we have managed to complete the foundations and build the walls up to window level, so there is still a long way to go. We also need to provide a toilet block adjacent to the building before it can be put fully into use. It is difficult to project the costs accurately due to the ever fluctuating exchange rates between £/\$ and Ugandan Shilling. We have recently provided a people carrier vehicle for use with the project and in support of the clinic.

The Next Stages and Projected Costs..... (approx £25,000 spent to date)

Description	Estimated Cost £'s
Complete walls and Concrete Columns & Supports	15,000
Construct Toilet Block inc Septic Tank	8,000
Provide and fit Roof	25,000
Fixtures and Fittings (connect electricity etc)	10,000
Total:	58,000

Gilead Community Hall - The Story So Far.....



In August 2007 in Luwero, just across the way from the 'African Outreach Academy' primary school and the site where the clinic is situated, the ground is being prepared for the foundations of the...Gilead Community Centre. The bricks are made on site from the clay beneath the ground in this area.

Here you see the activities in progress...

The trenches are dug for the foundations and the steelwork which will support the concrete columns are put in place.



Feb 2008 more foundation stones which had to be brought in from quite a distance arrive on site.



Here you can see more of the foundation and also illustrates the dimensions of the structure. and the concrete slab starts to take shape.



As the concrete slab starts to take shape, some of the children take the opportunity to inspect the work (please note the fully protective sandals)



Feb 2009, the concrete foundations are complete and the walls start to take shape. All of the work is being done by local labour under the supervision of a competent, tried and tested engineer.



£25,000 spent.....
£58,000 to go!!!

Thanks for all your support!

The Luwero Clinic.....

The clinic opened in February 2000 and our full time nurse 'Gladys' (as at Feb 2009) has treated 5450 patients (mainly children under 12).

The total for 2008 was 1011 as follows;

Malaria 643, Breaks & Sprains 236,
Abdominal 72, Measles 20, Toothache 30.



No child has died since the clinic opened and Gladys started work!!!

Sponsor Children.....



Michael meets sponsors Phil & Chris

This is something that we initially fell into, by virtue of being asked to help out by supporting a few needy children and in turn the school they would attend. Over the years this has developed and now more than 55 children are being sponsored and attend a variety of schools, training and university. Most of the children need to board at the schools they attend, so in order to cope with this, the cost of sponsorship for new sponsors was raised to £20 per month a couple of years ago.

Gifts for Gilead 2008

For the last couple of years we have run a present-aid scheme and has bought a number of items including goats, pigs and chickens, which we have personally delivered during our annual group visit in February. This years group once again experienced the joy of delivering a gift. We also learned that the consequences of buying more than one of any animal, means you end up with many more which have to be housed and fed. We now have 7 goats and 3 pigs of which 2 are pregnant!



1000 bananas in the boot and heading for some eager children back at school!

Thanks for your contribution