



BELO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - Sponsor an Orphan Project -

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SPONSORS NEWSLETTER – March 2010

Hi Sponsor an Orphan Program Supporters, My name is Louise and I have been working on the sponsor an orphan project with Richard since December 2009 and I will be here until the end of April or may this year depending on whether or not I can get a visa extension (which as a side note they seem to be making harder and harder for volunteers!). As Richard has been spending more and more time with his partner Elodie down in Yaounde, we have been sharing the program supervisor role. So I would have already been in contact with some of you already through email.

Update on After school Program



Kosaku from Japan who has been working as a volunteer in one of the Govt schools teaching Maths since Oct 2009 and plans to remain until Oct 2010, has taken on the task of reorganizing the afterschool program. Kosaku's program includes checking on the school reports of the orphans to identify their strengths and weaknesses and tailoring the program to assist them with the subjects they are most weakest in. The first 3 months of this program focused on secondary school students. Kosaku identified that their weakest subjects were Maths and English. Kosaku thus

enlisted my help to teach English while he tackles their Maths and the two field workers John Paul and Velma work one on one with the weaker students assisting them with their homework. It has been so far successful in the sense that most of the secondary school orphans who can make it to the afterschool have been quite regular in their attendance. With 3 new additional orphans joining our afterschool program last week.



Of course it is not all work at the afterschool and we have just started Friday afternoon movies. One of the volunteers Reinold from another organisation RUDEC has a projector which we borrow for this purpose, turning one of our rooms into a mini movie theatre for an afternoon.

We have also had visitors with various skills who have come to share them with our orphans. A big thank you to Mightie's (Ex volunteer) sister who and spent a day teaching the children different acrobatic and circus tricks. Also Ryan a dancer from the US who spent a week teaching dance classes, which the children (girls in particular) really enjoyed! And Roxanna a VSO volunteer from the UK who is doing a cross cultural project involving swapping local folk stories between our children in Belo and children from a village in the UK.



Grants and Donations

Another huge thank you also goes to Amanda who also raised a substantial amount of money (\$1700) from family and friends in the US. Amanda is currently volunteering at Berudep and has volunteered at Berudep in the past as well. Amanda and her family and friends were also responsible for raising money to build the afterschool last year and this year they raised funds to spend on updating the afterschool as well as other projects. The money has already been used to buy 2 large speakers for the afterschool. Amanda also brought over a large amount of donated items for the school.



Also as an update on the donation from Future for Africa, the grant has since come through and some of the items listed to be bought in the last Newsletter have already been purchased, such as the helmets for the field workers; payment for a teacher for the after school for one year; electricity connection for the Orphan sponsorship program and the afterschool; a printer; battery generators and numerous other necessary stationery items.

New Sponsorships



We have also 7 new orphans who have been added to our sponsorship list within the last 3 months which means we have 5 new sponsors. Thank you to Marzia, Juan, Maria, Leslie and Marta for joining our Sponsor an orphan family. Also thank you to Kym and Mathew for switching sponsorship to Claudine and Sandrine.

We also have a new addition to our family as one of our own sponsored young women Miranda has just herself had a wee baby. Welcome Little Recgan.

Our Newest sponsorships, Claudine Sandrine and Melvise with John Paul

Volunteer Comings and Goings

We have received a large number of volunteers within that last 3 months. Four French students arrived in January to work on Berudep's eco tourism program for 2-3mths. We now have a link with a university in France who send students on placement to work on our eco tourism program every year. And of course Amanda who has volunteered with us before and is currently working one on one with a number of our sponsored children in the afterschool and as well as working at the Blind and Deaf school in Kitchu.

Anita from Germany also arrived this week to work on the Sponsor an Orphan Program and she will take over the Program Supervisor position when myself and Richard leave.

This month we say goodbye to our ever returning volunteer Andy, Andy has been working on developing the volunteer program since he arrived Nov 2009 and I believe this will be his last time in Belo although he will still be assisting behind the scenes through Afri-Link.



We also say goodbye to Richard who has been the sponsor an orphan project supervisor for over a year. A big thank you to Richard for all his hard work and the many improvements he has made to the project over the previous year.

St Patricks Day Party



Being Irish I of course felt it was my duty to introduce our St. Patricks Day holiday to the Cameroonians!... I started with a presentation on all things Irish at the afterschool the week before so that the children would understand what the holiday was all about. Then the day before paddies day I set the kids to task making decorations for our party. On the big day then twas a sea of green. For the

kids who did not have green clothes we gave them green ribbons. We also fed them a traditional irish beef and guinness stew, complete with green potatos and green cordial. Of course their was plenty of games with irish music and irish dancing (which basically involves a lot of jumping around), thus the kids took to it like a duck to water! I think I can safely say that a lot of fun was had all around.. at the very least we certainly tired everyone out!



We now have 56 sponsored orphans in our program, and although we always need new sponsors, what we really need is for some people to also support our support fund which runs the Sponsor an Orphan Project. Currently we only have Andy who is paying in 10 pounds a month to this fund, but it is clearly not enough, as this is the only money we have to actually run the program ie. paying for administration costs such as office space, electricity, internet connection, paper, printing materials etc. if anybody is interested in supporting our support fund please contact us on the emails below. We are only asking people to contribute as little as 5 or 10 pounds a month. Thanks!

To contact us direct please write to sponsorphan@yahoo.com

To find out more about KIRABO please visit www.kirabo.eu

To find out more about Afri-link please visit www.afri-link.org

To find out more about the Sponsor an Orphan Project visit sponsor-an-orphan.blogspot.com

Well that's it for this Newsletter. Thanks again for all your support, without you this project would not exist!

***Louise O'Connor,
Project Supervisor***

