



BELO RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION - Sponsor an Orphan Project -

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Registration number: NW/GP/29/97/1373

PROJECT NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2010

Dear Friends,

It's a pleasure to send you some news from Belo.

My name is Anita Friedrich and I have taken over the position of the project supervisor for the Sponsor an Orphan Project from Richard and Louise. I am originally from Germany, but lived the past 3 years in Canada. I have a couple of years experience in all aspects of administration and customer service and I hope that I can use some of my skills to make the project running even more efficient than it already is.

More than three months have passed since I have arrived in Belo and the time has passed quickly! I am trying to build up on the great work that the previous supervisors have done here and I hope I will be successful.



NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

We are keeping our main email address sponsorphan@berudep.org. However, for technical reasons we had to change our alternative email address. Please be advised that our new email address is sponsorphan@gmail.com and the yahoo address should not be used anymore. Thank you for taking this into consideration when contacting us!

NEWLY SPONSORED

We are happy to announce that we are now supporting 57 children with our program. Some kids have dropped out of the program for various reasons but we also have some new additions. We would like to thank those who were willing to take over and/or swap a sponsorship:

Peter from the UK now sponsors **Claudine** and Leslie and Nancy from the US have agreed to sponsor her twin sister **Sandrine**. They are 12 years old and will soon visit the second form of secondary school. Their mother died in 2002 after a long-term illness and the biological father is unknown. The twins currently live with a couple of other siblings and her grandmother.





Marta from Spain will now sponsor **Feldric**. He is 10 years old and his parents died in 2008 from chest problems. He dropped out from school due to lack of money to pay school fees and buy books. Their grandmother is looking after Feldric and his younger brother Bendrine who is also sponsored by our program.



Berthila is now sponsored by Anna & Greg from Spain. Both had previously sponsored Stephanie who unfortunately dropped out of the program due to school problems. Berthila's mother died in 2000 when Berthila was just about 7 months old probably from AIDS and her father is unknown. Berthila will soon be in her first year in secondary school.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

As most of you are aware we have switched our system of sending the quarterly reports to all the sponsors. All of you should have received the first reports electronically by now and I hope that you like the photos, letters and other documents that we have attached for you. Please let us know if you have any suggestions about how to improve our reports.

AFTER SCHOOL

The after school program is an important part of the orphan project. Since its existence we have been trying to improve analytical skills, logical and creative thinking as well as the team working of the children. Unfortunately, the local schools have a way of teaching that doesn't allow any room for these skills; memorizing instead of understanding subjects is the norm. We are continuously trying to break this circle with all kinds of activities.



Unfortunately a lot of kids in our programme do not perform well in school, especially in maths and have to repeat classes. We are currently working specifically to improve the maths results and therefore have made it a priority during our after school classes. To be more efficient, we decided to split the maths classes for the kids in secondary class in two. Kosaku is taking care of all students in form 2 and higher and I am teaching the kids in form 1. We hope that this more individual approach will improve the results in school. Beside maths, we are offering English classes and Simon, a VSO volunteer who is working for Belo council, was kind enough to take these on. Daniel is helping out our teacher in the classroom with the younger kids and the field workers are helping out wherever there is a need. Furthermore, we have started to give computer lessons as per request of the children, but we hope to offer this on a regularly basis to prepare the kids for the future.



NATIONAL DAY

Cameroon was celebrating a double jubilee on May 20th, its 38th National Day as well as its 50th anniversary of Independence and Reunification. Celebrations are being organized under the theme "Defense Forces and the Nation: Together to consolidate 50th anniversary achievements". The celebration was characterized by a military parade and civilian march pass amongst other commemorative activities.

For this occasion all the children in the local schools had to join in a parade through Belo. Proper uniform was required to take part and as some of our kids were missing shoes or jackets we helped provide these



items so that they could participate.

WANTED!

Sponsors

If you know anyone who might be interested in sponsoring one of these children, please let us know.



Prosper is 12 years old. His mother and father died in 2008 from illness. He has dropped out of school due to frequent illness,

but he is planning to go back to Primary 4 in September. Prosper was diagnosed as HIV positive, but there is no money to continue his treatment.



Betuel is 9 years old and lives with his mother. In 2003 he got a serious skin disease and his family is not financially able to

fund Betuel's treatment. Due to some fresh sores Betuel is presently not allowed to attend any school.

Jupiter is 8 years old and currently lives with his grandparents. Jupiter's father died in 2003 from illness.



Jupiter's mother left him when he was just a baby. Jupiter is currently in class 3 and is very smart but his grandparents struggle to keep him in school as they survive on the grandfather's meagre pension

Furthermore, we are urgently looking for donors for the **project support fund**. The support fund helps us to run the program and pays for the admin costs, equipment for the office, electricity or the ASEP (After School Education Program). These funds ensure that the project will continue to run in an effective manner in order to serve the underprivileged in the Belo community. If you would like to send a monthly or a one-time donation, please contact us. We appreciate every donation, no matter how small it is. Thank you!

Volunteers

Is anyone willing to devote his time and energy for something worth it? If so, why not volunteer in Africa and have a unique life experience? Please contact us for further information!

We are right now looking for people who can help out in the following areas:

- American Sign language teacher
- Support for our Field Workers
- Support for the After School Education Program
- Project Supervisor (minimum of 6 months required)

DONATIONS

A huge thank to Louise who raised funds from friends in Australia for the project support fund. We have received 400 AUD from her friend Pat Gavin and another 100 AUD from Clare Swanson.

Furthermore, we would like to thank Richard, Amanda and Peter for the various items they have donated for the project!

VOLUNTEERS COMINGS & GOINGS



(From left to right: Job, Andy, Kosaku, Louise, Amanda, Richard, Anita, Daniel)

Louise was supporting Richard in the supervisor position from December 2009 to April 2010. Louise brought a lot of fun and creativity into the project and especially the after school and this is greatly missed. Louise is currently travelling through Africa before returning to Ireland.

Amanda from the US is a returning volunteer who was here this time from January to May 2010. She not only worked as a sign language teacher in a local school, but she also helped in the after school working with the smaller kids. During her stay she took on all the daily home visits for our special cases to make sure that they went to school and took their medication.

Louise and Amanda, thank you for the work done and for the effort and passion you put into this! We wish you all the best for your future endeavours!

Daniel from the US arrived at the end of March. He is mainly working in fundraising for Berudep, but he was willing to help out with the after school and some home visits.

Thanks again for all your support in the past and in future!

Best regards,

Anita Friedrich
Project Supervisor

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

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